



# Stewardship

A PUBLICATION OF AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL

# News

Volume 9, Issue 5 • September–October 2006

## Protecting the Environment is Up to All of Us

BY JEAN MACKAY

**H**elping People Help the Environment. Those five words of Audubon International's tagline distill what we do and who we are into a catch phrase that is understood and remembered easily.

But five words have their limits. What we want to convey is that one of the best ways to protect our environment is by how we live and care for the places we call home. After all, the choices we make every day influence water, wildlife, natural resources, and, indeed, entire landscapes locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Audubon International's goal is to help people make sound choices and take action today to care for the environment so that we meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Essentially, we are working to *achieve sustainability*.

To reach that end, Audubon International partners with individuals and organizations that want to take an active role in protecting the environment around them. By providing educational programs, sound information, technical assistance, and awards and certification, we help people sustain the environment in the places they care about—and realize that the sum of our individual efforts adds up to make a real difference.

### Getting started

Whether you begin with your backyard, schoolyard, workplace, or entire community, starting close to home and extending your efforts outward makes good sense. How else can we hope to “save the environment” if we lose wildlife habitats, stress water resources, or contribute



Caring for the environment today is like giving a gift to future generations.

to pollution in our own homes, neighborhoods, and communities?

To be effective in helping the environment, think about specific things that you can do something about: reducing water and energy consumption, fostering wildlife and protecting their habitats, generating less waste, preventing pollution, and so on. Audubon International programs and resources focus on key environmental areas—wildlife, water, eco-efficiency, outreach and education, and community/sustainability—to enable you to take concrete steps to improve the environment and measure the success of your efforts. Use our short checklists below to get ideas and see how well you're doing.



### Wildlife

We share the earth with a spectacular variety of living things. From almost any perspective—economic, environmental, ethical, aesthetic—it makes sense to keep the earth's ecosystems and wildlife species healthy long into the future. Yet a number of threats place the earth's great biodiversity at risk: habitat loss and fragmentation,

*Continued on page 4*

## Dear Members and Supporters,

Stewardship is a combination of positive attitude backed up by positive action. It is continual learning and taking steps to improve our environment. It is a life-style and a long-term commitment.

Making a commitment to stewardship of the environment actually means thinking beyond the length of your lifetime. It means thinking beyond yourself and your own personal property. Stewardship is a way of life that affects the way you manage your property; your purchasing decisions; the way you relate to your co-workers, family, and friends. It includes always being in the “learning mode,” open to new ideas, products, and management approaches that result in improved business efficiency and improved environmental quality.

We are proud to be working with each and every one of you. You should be proud of the commitment and efforts that you are making and the combined success of all of our actions. Together, we are improving the quality of our environment, and—equally important—generating hope for a better future.

**Ronald G. Dodson**  
President and CEO

## In this issue...



Great projects are underway as Audubon International program members turn their stewardship ethic into action. We hope the stories in this issue help you get inspired or get started on projects of your own.

- 5 Stewardship in Action: *Softball...the environmental way***—Softball is way more than a game, when played on a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.
- 6 Green at School: *Transforming Environmental Education***—How do we prepare young people to address the complex environmental issues that affect us? Schools across the country are getting smart about environmental education, and fostering lifelong learning and good stewardship in the process.
- 8 Stepping Toward Sustainability: *Peak Performance***—A new base area at Stowe Mountain Resort is shaping up to put Stowe, Vermont on the map as a world-class resort destination, and a remarkable sustainable community.
- 9 The Nature of Golf: *Captivating Your Audience***—RiverBend Golf Community in Ontario, Canada, shares some unique ways to turn golfers into environmental stewards.
- 10 On the Road...for Stewardship: *Las Vegas, Nevada***—Audubon International President and CEO Ronald Dodson travels to Las Vegas where an unexpected bird sighting reveals opportunities for environmentally sensitive development.
- 11 Membership News:** Welcome to our newest members and congratulations to our recently certified sanctuaries.



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  
**Mereith Fink**, Membership Secretary  
**Peter Leuzinger**, Great Lakes Field Office  
**Jeremy Taylor**, Staff Ecologist  
**Shawn Williams**, Staff Ecologist  
**Joellen Zeh**, Program Manager

### AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAM

**Nancy Richardson**, Director  
**Linda Snow**, Administrative Assistant

### 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  
**Russ Bodie**, Project Manager  
**Rich Henderson**, Business Manager  
**Susana Morais**, Director of Operations—Portugal  
**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**, Manager

# ecoLogical Home Ideas Magazine Partners with Audubon International

A new magazine devoted to home improvement “with environmental attitude, for a healthy home, family, and earth,” made its debut earlier this year. *ecoLogical Home Ideas* features green building news, remodeling techniques, do-it-yourself projects, resources, product reviews, a green events calendar, and more. The magazine’s publisher has recently partnered with Audubon International to give homeowners even more environmental options through a regular feature of the mag-

azine, *Treasuring Home Journal*.

“The magazine provides a great opportunity for us to reach a much wider audience with our message of environmental stewardship,” says Ronald Dodson, President and CEO of Audubon International. “It’s also a perfect outreach tool for our Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature Program members who want to get homeowners to support their efforts to become certified.”

*ecoLogical Home Ideas* is available

at major bookstores where magazines are sold, or via subscription [\$19.95 for 2-year subscription (8 issues)]. Subscribe online at [www.ecologicalhomeideas.com](http://www.ecologicalhomeideas.com).



## Birdwatching Open Results—Correction!

Due to birding checklists from participants flying in right up to (and past) the deadline, a lost fax, and several errors on our part in entering data, the results of our 2006 North American Birdwatching Open (published in *Stewardship News*, July-August 2006) contained several errors. We regret that the first printing ruffled some feathers and appreciate the patience of all of our participants while waiting for the final tally. Here it is:

- Number of Participants: . . . . . 53
- Total number of bird species seen (all courses): . . . . . 289
- Average number of bird species seen per course: . . . . . 48
- Number of courses counting 50 or more species: 23 (43%)



### Best Overall

- Landings Club–Palmetto Course, Savannah, GA (99)
- Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, KS (83)
- Aspetuck Valley Country Club, Weston, CT (75)
- Lake Quivira Golf Course, Lake Quivira, KS (74)
- Olympia Fields Country Club, Olympia Fields, IL (74)

### Best of the Atlantic Flyway

- Landings Club–Palmetto Course, Savannah, GA (99)
- Aspetuck Valley Country Club, Weston, CT (75)
- Pine Valley Golf Course, Pine Valley, NJ (70)

### Best of the Southern Zone

- Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island, FL (71)
- Venetian Golf and River Club, North Venice, FL (60)
- Bonita Bay Club East, Naples, FL (53)

### Best of the Mississippi and Great Lakes Flyway

- Olympia Fields Country Club, Olympia Fields, IL (74)
- Tartan Park Golf Course, Lake Elmo, MN (71)
- Village Links of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL (67)

### Best of the Central Flyway

- Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, KS (83)
- Lake Quivira Golf Course, Lake Quivira, KS (74)
- Prairie Dunes Country Club, Hutchinson, KS (56)

### Best of the Pacific Flyway

- Stevinson Ranch Golf Club, Stevinson, CA (63)
- Spokane Country Club, Spokane, WA (44)
- Timber Creek & Sierra Pines Golf Course, Roseville, CA (40)

## Protecting the Environment is Up to All of Us *Continued from page 1*

introduced invasive species, environmental degradation, over-harvesting, and interactions among all of these. Protecting habitats and improving the way we manage our landscapes are keys to preserving the diversity of life around us.

- ❑ Landscape naturally—combine lawn and landscaped areas with more natural habitat areas that provide food, shelter, water, and safe breeding areas for wildlife
- ❑ Plant native species of trees, shrubs, flowers, and groundcovers
- ❑ Add flowers for hummingbirds and butterflies
- ❑ Seek pest control strategies that address the root causes of pest outbreaks, such as poor soil, compaction, or improper plant selection or care, and reduce the need for chemical treatments
- ❑ Learn about and enjoy the birds, butterflies, and mammals that inhabit your property

### Water

Everyday, our individual and collective actions affect the quality and quantity of water in streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater. The U.S. has the highest freshwater usage in the world—the average American family consumes nearly 300 gallons per day just at home. Yet less than one percent of the world's water is groundwater or freshwater that can be tapped into. Practicing water conservation and protecting water quality are vitally important ways we can keep water resources renewable and aquatic habitats thriving.

- ❑ Switch to low-flow faucets, toilets, and showerheads
- ❑ Water your lawn and landscape plants only when needed, instead of on a timed schedule
- ❑ Fix leaks quickly
- ❑ Never allow motor oil, gasoline, paint, or harmful chemicals to wash into storm drains, or to drain directly into streams, lakes, or other water bodies
- ❑ Carefully store, handle, and dispose of any chemical products to prevent spills and pollution



COMPOSTING (INNSBROOK RESORT, MO)

Even small steps can make a big difference. Reducing waste, making better purchasing decisions, and saving water and energy are just a few of the everyday actions you can take.

### Eco-Efficiency

Eco-efficiency is a management strategy of doing more with less. In practice, it means conserving energy, decreasing waste, and using best management practices to maintain buildings and landscapes. As a result, we reduce emissions that contribute to acid rain, global warming, and air pollution, and decrease soil and water pollution. Because eco-efficiency optimizes the use of resources, it often reduces costs and liabilities, while improving environmental performance.

- ❑ Reduce waste with smart buying habits: buy in bulk, avoid over-packaged products, purchase durable and quality products that last, choose packaging that can be recycled
- ❑ Recycle
- ❑ Conduct an energy audit and make a plan to incorporate recommended upgrades and improvements
- ❑ Switch to compact florescent lights
- ❑ Adopt an eco-purchasing policy—start with paper products and Energy Star appliances

### Community/Sustainability

An increasing number of communities are focusing on their environmental, social, and economic needs as an integrated whole, rather than as

separate entities. When viewed together, communities can make better decisions and policies and take actions that support smart growth. Individuals and organizations can encourage and support such efforts in many ways. Audubon International program members are well positioned to play leadership roles in widening the impact of our positive environmental actions from property to neighborhood to community.

- ❑ Find out what steps your community is taking to become more sustainable
- ❑ Use your power as a citizen to support smart growth—vote, get involved, attend community meetings, write letters, advocate for policies and practices that protect the environment and quality of life for all
- ❑ Choose a project that benefits your community, such as a community clean-up or beautification project, or adopt-a-school as an Audubon Partner for the Environment

### Outreach and Education

Teaching people about what you are doing to protect the environment and encouraging others get involved garners support for your efforts and widens your sphere of influence. This is one of the most critical aspects of Audubon International's programs. The more people see themselves as stewards of the environment, the greater the good that can be accomplished.

- ❑ Teach by example—be a model for others to emulate
- ❑ Seek out partners who can help with environmental improvement projects
- ❑ Tell people what you are doing and share your results—use conversations, presentations, displays, articles, signs, and brochures to spread the word
- ❑ Invite people to come and see your results or to participate in stewardship activities ●

# Softball: the Environmental Way

BY PAT BLUM

Think softball is just a sport? It is a lot more when you are playing on a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. In April of this year, the Lishakill Softball Complex in Colonie, New York, became the first of its kind to be certified in the Audubon program. On opening day, a formal presentation was made by Joellen Zeh of Audubon International to the softball complex, with almost 700 players, children, and parents looking on.

Built in 2003, the softball complex is a great athletic facility, with many interesting qualities. Its five fields were built around protected wetlands, and the concession stand meets every energy efficiency code. The fields are maintained using organic fertilizers and integrated pest management practices only. The entire facility lies on 26 acres, which also include a woodland of mature red oaks, red maples, Eastern white pine, and white birch. And the property is home to a diversity of wildlife, including: wild turkey, red-tailed hawks, Eastern bluebirds, wood ducks, red-wing black birds, deer, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, turtles, and many frogs.

How did this complex get into the Audubon program? I have been involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Golf Courses at Colonial Acres Golf Course since 1997. That course achieved certification in 1998 and I've enjoyed a close partnership with Audubon International ever since. Last year, I began working at the softball complex and thinking about how I might apply environmental management practices there, too. But the real impetus for enrolling the complex in the ACSP came from my 10 year old daughter, Samantha. Having grown up hearing me preach "Audubon, Audubon, Audubon..." her whole life, it seemed only natural to Samantha that the softball complex should be a cooperative sanctuary, too.



Even ordinary places can become venues for teaching good stewardship, as these girls learned at the local softball complex.

Not only has Samantha been playing softball at the complex for the last three years, she has also helped with many of the projects that we implemented. She helped put up nest boxes for Eastern bluebirds, started recycling bins, helped with our wildlife inventory, and participated in an environmental poster contest that we hosted to increase environmental awareness among the players.

The positive feedback we've received from our involvement in the ACSP has been tremendous. Everyone from the town supervisor to local papers to national turf magazines to the community in general has applauded the accomplishments of the complex. The facility's Board of Directors was very supportive of the whole project, especially President Colleen Delay.

"It's not just about softball," says Delay, "it's about the girls' environmental future." The only thing better than watching more than 300 girls playing softball is when they stop in the middle of a game and start yelling, "There go the turkeys!" (Though their coaches would rather they focus on playing.) Among my many personal rewards for the time invested in achieving certification was seeing my daughter hit a grand



slam homerun on opening day, just as a red-tailed hawk was circling the complex. When you take a recreational activity like softball and know that the girls are playing on an environmental sanctuary, it makes it the best game in town. ●

*Pat Blum is field maintenance coordinator for the Lishakill Softball Complex and superintendent at Colonial Acres Golf Course in Bethlehem, NY.*

# Transforming Environmental Education

BY JEAN MACKAY



Now, more than ever before, we are called upon to make decisions and take action to address the complex environmental issues that affect our lives. From climate change to managing water supplies to meeting energy needs to protecting wildlife diversity, the next generation will inherit the results of our actions. And they, in turn, will need the knowledge and skills to address our shortfalls and care for the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.

Preparing young people to meet these challenges is no small undertaking. Teaching children to be good stewards of the environment takes dedication and practice, as well as guidance from caring adults who can share their knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm.

Yet fitting environmental education into the day-to-day demands of the classroom is increasingly difficult, as teachers struggle to keep up with core subjects, standardized testing, and meeting the various academic, social, and emotional needs of their students. One solution is to help schools get

smarter about environmental education by finding ways to use the environment as a context for learning core subjects, and taking advantage of opportunities to use the school surroundings and community as a focal point for environmental improvement.

In 2005-06, 60 schools from 25 states did just that as *Audubon Partners for the Environment*. Each school chose at least one environmental project that fit one of the five themed tracks of the program: wildlife, water, environmental education, eco-efficiency, and community/sustainability.

Teachers drew upon the expertise, resources, and support of many partners—including principals, PTAs, parents, community organizations, and Audubon International staff—to implement highly creative projects that resulted in integrated and active learning and real improvements to the environment.

If last year's success stories are an indication, 2006-07 should prove to be an exciting year. Eighty percent of our schools will be partnering with us again this year, and more are join-

ing us as the new school year begins. We share some of their achievements here to provide recognition to the teachers and students for their efforts and to inspire others to follow their lead. We're looking forward to the 2006-07 academic year!

## Mountain View Elementary

*Haymarket, Virginia*

More than 70 science students, along with teachers, parents, and community volunteers, restored a long neglected butterfly garden at the school.

Second grade science classes and their fourth grade "learning buddies" made an enthusiastic gardening force, as they weeded, planted, and added creative features, such as hand-made stepping stones, a bird bath, trellis, bird feeders, and plant labels. The garden not only provided a focal point for science lessons, it also gave the students a greater sense of purpose, as they watched acreage adjoining the school be cleared for a new housing development. Students were rewarded with birds and butterflies in their new garden and a variety of teachers used it to enrich their curriculum.

## Bay Meadows Elementary School

*Orlando, Florida*

Temporarily displaced to a "relief school" while renovations took place at Bay Meadows in 2005/06, teacher Cindy Hendricks sought to do an environmental project with her students that might serve as a gift to the children who would use the relief school after them. Working with Bob Karnes from Walt Disney World, the school's sponsor, Bay Meadows installed a purple martin house and several bird feeders and enjoyed lessons on the birds of Florida. This year, Bay Meadows returns to its original site and plans are underway for environmental education projects there.



### St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School

*Leawood, Kansas*

In conjunction with Nicklaus Golf Club, 5th grade students at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School built five nest boxes that were placed on the golf course. Lowes donated building materials and school maintenance staff assisted the students in cutting the wood. Students made weekly visits to the course to chart nesting activity.

### Voorheesville Elementary School

*Voorheesville, New York*

Though the school district has no recycling program, fourth graders in Mr. Burns' class instituted a classroom recycling program for paper and plastic. They weighed recyclables weekly and plotted the weight in grams on a graph. Over 22 weeks, student awareness and appreciation for the environment grew as the class recycled 88 pounds of paper and plastic.

At the same time, 3rd graders in Mrs. Beck's classroom enjoyed becoming acquainted with the birds outside their second story classroom window. Their classroom bird feeder and a row of trees and creek beyond their window attracted more than 38 species. It also provided opportunities for "mini-lessons" on bird behavior and habitats, observation skills, and

even how to write paragraphs, as the children researched and wrote about the nesting habits of various birds. Student interest and enthusiasm grew throughout the year, as students began to notice the birds on the school grounds, at home, and even waiting for the bus.

### T.C. Henderson Elementary School

*Lake Toxaway, North Carolina*

Fifth grade students selected two stream sites on campus to monitor water quality. They tested for a variety of physical and chemical properties, and also conducted a survey of aquatic organisms to help determine stream health. Students were introduced to the topics of water cycles, ecology, and water quality monitoring, and have become independent water testers as a result of their participation in the project.

In addition, students constructed 45 bird feeders. Lake Toxaway Country Club, the school's sponsor, donated the wood and the Rosman High School shop class assisted with the construction. Students placed two feeders outside of their classroom, where they can observe the various species that use them, and sold the rest to help fund participation in community service projects.



### Olson Elementary School

*Bloomington, Minnesota*

Olson Elementary School more than met its goal to enhance campus grounds for learning while developing relationships with community organizations, as 850 students worked along side the school's community partners to create an outdoor classroom next to a pond on its elementary and middle school campus. The study area links the pond with school buildings via a new nature trail that is also open to neighborhood residents. Teachers will use the outside environment for hands-on science and environmental studies, as well as to enhance the curriculum in art, reading, and writing. A grant from Tree Trust covered the cost of trees and shrubs, while The Toro Company and the school's Audubon sponsor, Minnesota Valley Country Club, donated labor, equipment, and additional project funds. ●

# Peak Performance

BY PETER BRONSKI

It's a little past 7:00 am on the first Friday of June, and I'm standing atop Mount Mansfield, Vermont's tallest peak at 4,393 feet. I left the trailhead in Smuggler's Notch just over one hour ago and followed the famed Long Trail to my airy perch above treeline. From the summit there are expansive views in every direction. To the west, the city of Burlington on the shores of Lake Champlain, with New York's Adirondack Mountains in the distance. To the north, waves of clouds spill over the ridgetops of the Green Mountains and pour down into unseen valleys. To the east, the Town of Stowe is hidden beneath a fog that fills the valley.

And immediately below me, my eyes fall upon the Summit House of Stowe Mountain Resort, and to Spruce Peak at Stowe, which is why I'm here in the first place. Cradled between Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak along the Mountain Road, which connects the Town of Stowe with the resort and Smuggler's Notch, the still-under-construction project will be the new base area for the resort.

A few short months earlier, Spruce Peak became the first member of the Sustainable Communities Program's new Private Sector Track. Now, with Audubon International and Spruce Peak Realty (the company in charge of the project) working hand-in-hand, the new base area aims to become a centerpiece of sustainability for New England, Vermont, and the mountain resort industry.

Among the project's priorities is to ensure that Spruce Peak fits with the majestic, yet pastoral, landscape of Stowe, which for some, embodies many of the core values of sustain-

ability: a relationship to the land with an emphasis on stewardship of natural resources; opportunities for recreation; small, tight-knit communities; locally-grown and purchased produce; a sense of place and history.

## Building a Foundation, Striving for the Top

When completed, Spruce Peak at Stowe will feature Stowe Mountain Lodge (a high-end hotel), fractional- and whole-ownership condominiums, mountain cabin sites, a pedestrian village with retail shops and restaurants, an Audubon Signature golf course, a multi-purpose community center, and a 2,000-acre wildlife conservation area important as habitat for black bear and moose. The project's full 235 acres (which does not include the wildlife conservation area) will be rooted in Audubon International's sustainability principles.

Spruce Peak is already off to a running start. Spruce Peak Realty operates an employee incentive and recognition program that rewards environmental stewardship. Mountain cabins and other buildings are built with input from Efficiency Vermont, a state-based organization that helps developers like Spruce Peak Realty meet the standards of the federal government's Energy Star Home guidelines. Expanded alternative transportation options and incentives for carpooling and the use of hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles will help address transportation concerns.

Audubon International recently expanded its Sustainable Communities Program. Previously focused solely on local governments—towns, cities and counties, for example—the expanded program offers tracks that target two additional types of communities: private communities (resorts and residential developments) and campus communities (universities and colleges). For more information, contact Peter Bronski at [pbronski@auduboninternational.org](mailto:pbronski@auduboninternational.org).

Locally-owned shops will fill the pedestrian village storefronts. A new retention pond for snowmaking will reduce Spruce Peak's impact on the West Branch watershed and ecosystem. And the doubling of the employee-housing dormitory and financial contributions to a county housing fund will seek to address affordable housing issues.

In all, it's a commendable start to an endeavor that promises much for Stowe the mountain resort, and for Stowe the town. Such praise is not to suggest that Spruce Peak, much like any project, will be without its challenges. Yet, it is an exciting time with much promise for both Spruce Peak and Audubon International. At Spruce Peak, hopes are high that the new base area will put Stowe back on the map as a world-class ski resort destination. And at Audubon International, hopes are just as high that like the landscape around it, Spruce Peak will come to embody a new standard of sustainability...in New England, Vermont, and the mountain resort industry. ●

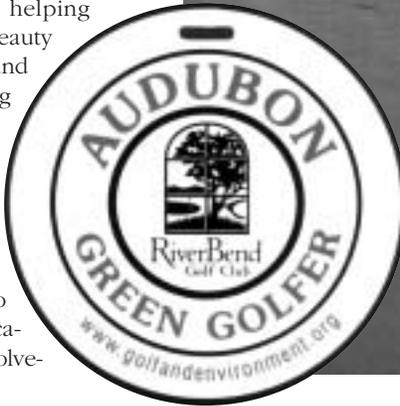
Stowe Mountain Resort is consistently ranked by SKI Magazine as the top-rated ski resort in the eastern United States. The resort's new base area, Spruce Peak at Stowe, is the first member of Audubon International's Sustainable Communities Program- Private Sector Track.

# Captivating Your Audience

BY KATIE MCGRATH

**R**iverBend Golf Community is one of a growing number of golf-residential communities across Canada. Flanked by a rare parcel of Carolinian forest and bordered by the Thames River, our unique community has attracted nature-lovers, bird watchers, and outdoor enthusiasts. Our residents and golfers are, in the best sense, a captive audience, and our job is to captivate them—by helping them recognize the beauty and value of our land and wildlife, and encouraging their participation in stewardship activities.

As part of our certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, we launched several creative programs to increase member education, awareness, and involvement.



Golfers pledge their support for the environment by taking the Audubon Green Golfer Pledge.



The Sand and Seed Social makes education fun, as golfers learn how to repair divots properly and support the course's environmental best practices.

## RiverBend's Annual Sand & Seed Social

What better way to educate our golfers on the art of ball mark repair and to answer the oft-asked question, "To fill or to replace?" Our Sand & Seed Social invites members to enjoy nine holes of golf and a complimentary meal at the clubhouse, while also demonstrating proper land management practices.

The evening begins with a brief talk on the importance of repairing the playing field for the competitors who follow. Golfers then head off for a 9-hole shotgun start on all 18 holes while staff members head off with loads of divot mix in tow. Although it can be difficult to keep up with the emptying of divot bottles, golfers are patient and generally awe-struck by the number of divots left through the season by their fellow golfers. One ton of divot mix later, golfers head back to the clubhouse for a complimentary feast and an evening with friends.

## Green Golfer Initiative

This year's Sand & Seed Social was also the perfect time to launch the new Green Golfer Club from Audubon International. This effort encourages golfers to pledge to support "Environmental Etiquette for Golf." We made special bag tags for the occasion and distributed them to all members who took the pledge. (Note: For more information about the Green Golfer Club, visit [www.golfandenvironment.org](http://www.golfandenvironment.org))

## Photography Contest

We host seasonal photography contests to help the grounds department to see the property as members and residents see it. We provide a deadline and a theme, such as wildlife or fall colors, and anxiously await the beautiful submissions. Prizes include gift certificates and custom framing and matting. We are often granted permission to display the photographs in the grounds department lunchroom to remind us all to be stewards of the environment.



A painting class gives people a whole new perspective on the golf course.

## Painting Workshops

One of our most popular programs has been a series of watercolour workshops designed to raise awareness of our natural surroundings. Participants of all artistic abilities are welcome. The golf club supplies all art materials, snacks, and transportation to different inspirational sites on the property. Each time we gather we share a new skill, and then turn our focus to our environment. This workshop has given confidence to reluctant artists and new inspiration to seasoned painters. It is our hope that by capturing beautiful landscapes in watercolour, we will be moved to protect them for the future. ●

*Katie McGrath is the Stewardship Coordinator at RiverBend Golf Community in London, Ontario, Canada.*

# Las Vegas, Nevada

BY RONALD DODSON

While many species of wildlife are very dependent on certain types of habitat and are very sensitive to changes in the environment, many others prove to be more adaptable than we'd expect. All forms of life need food, cover, water, and adequate space in order to live. But what happens to species that find themselves in the midst of sprawling human development? To survive, they must be able to adapt to some human growth as a portion of their network of needed resources.

And so it was that I found myself checking into a hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was one block off the "strip," right beside the Las Vegas Convention Center, and my room was on the 14th floor. I was in Las Vegas for a couple of days to visit with some developers and gauge their interest in working with us to incorporate environmentally-sensitive design and management. I had just dropped my suitcase and decided to sit and rest a minute before heading out to my first meeting of the day, when a sudden movement caught my eye.

For a second, what it was didn't really register, as I looked out my window onto the buildings and vast "strip" of hotels and casinos. But then I looked closer to the window itself and spied a bird perched on my windowsill. It was just sitting there, looking around, and occasionally it peered into my room!

I decided to see how close I could get to the window to determine what kind of bird it was. With camera in hand, and crawling on my hands and knees, I crept toward the window, stopping now and again to take a photo, thinking that I wouldn't be able to get much closer. But, to my amazement, I managed to get all the way to the window, where I discovered that the bird was not peering into my room at all, but looking at its own reflection in the glass. Here on the 14th floor of a Las Vegas hotel, I had a close up view of an American kestrel,



There are opportunities to help wildlife, even in the most unexpected places.

with lunch (a mouse) in its talons.

It was nearly 100 degrees outside and my room was on the shady side. So, this kestrel had found a shady perch to sit and survey its domain while having lunch. Just across the street from the hotel was a golf course. From my vantage point, I could see one green and part of two fairways. I could also see that between the fairways were trees, shrubs, and other desert plants surrounding the landscaped areas where the game is played. Given the fact that everything else around was a sea of concrete, I would assume that the course was "home base" and an important hunting area for the kestrel.

## Seeing opportunities

I wonder how many people associated with the hotel where I was staying, or the golf course developers, thought about the fact that they were going to provide habitat for small mammals, a feeding area for a small bird of prey, or a shaded perching area from which this hunter could enjoy its lunch and survey its environment. My guess? Probably not much thought was put into it at all.



Yet there are opportunities to provide wildlife habitat even in the midst of the most intense urban sprawl. Whether we hail from urban, suburban, or rural areas, we can all do things that are positive for wildlife and the environment. Audubon International's job is to help people see those opportunities and take advantage of them to the fullest extent possible.

The little stories of life are going on around all of us every day. Stop occasionally and see what you can observe in your own neighborhood. While you may not personally have enough habitat nearby to directly help an endangered species, you can still help to keep wildlife from becoming endangered. If you visit nearby properties that encourage wildlife, support their efforts. Promote the value and beauty of even common species of wildlife, so that they may remain common. Enjoy opportunities to see wildlife wherever you can. You may be surprised by what's out there. ●

*These listings include membership activity from June 1, 2006 through July 27, 2006.*

## AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Golf Program

##### International-Canada

Bathurst Glen Golf Course, Richmond Hill, ON  
Club de Golf, Drummondville, QC  
Kelowna Golf and Country Club, Kelowna, BC  
Northumberland Golf Club, Pugwash, NS  
The Grand Niagara Club, Port Robinson, ON

##### Arizona

Ancala Country Club, Scottsdale, AZ  
Stonebridge Meadows Golf Course, Fayetteville, AR

##### California

Yucaipa Valley Golf Club, Yucaipa, CA

##### Connecticut

The Golf Club at Oxford Greens, Oxford, CT

##### District of Columbia

Armed Forces Retirement Home Golf Course, Washington, DC

##### Florida

DeBary Golf & Country Club, DeBary, FL  
Santa Rosa Golf and Beach Club, Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
Shingle Creek Golf Club, Orlando, FL  
The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa, Jupiter, FL

##### Georgia

Laurel Springs Golf Club, Suwanee, GA

##### Louisiana

Country Club of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

##### Nevada

Canyon Gate Country Club, Las Vegas, NV

##### New Jersey

High Bridge Hills Golf Club, HighBridge, NJ  
Rossmoor Golf Course, Monroe, NJ

##### New York

Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY  
Hudson Hills Golf Course, Ossining, NY  
Maple Moor Golf Course, White Plains, NY

##### Oregon

Chehalem Glenn Golf Course, Newberg, OR

##### Pennsylvania

Lederach Golf Club, Harleysville, PA

##### Tennessee

Centennial Golf Course, Oak Ridge, TN

##### Texas

Cowboys Golf Club, Grapevine, TX  
Mansfield National Golf Club, Mansfield, TX

##### Virginia

Ocean View Golf Course, Norfolk, VA  
Reston National Golf Course, Reston, VA  
Stoneleigh Golf Club, Round Hill, VA  
Virginia Oaks Golf Club, Gainesville, VA

### RECENTLY CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

Birdwood Golf Course at UVA, Charlottesville, VA  
Callippe Preserve Golf Course, Pleasanton, CA  
Country Club of St. Albans, St. Albans, MO  
Hoover Country Club, Birmingham, AL  
Hyatt Hills Golf Complex, Clark, NJ  
North Halton Golf and Country Club, Georgetown, ON, Canada  
Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course, San Jose, CA  
Stone Creek Golf Club, Oregon City, OR  
Useless Bay Golf & Country Club, Langley, WA  
Youghiogeny Country Club, McKeesport, PA

### RE-CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARIES

#### Certified for 10 Years or more

Carmel Country Club, Charlotte, NC  
Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, Plymouth, MI  
Lakeside Country Club, Houston, TX  
The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, MN  
Tam O'Shanter of PA, Hermitage, PA  
TPC at Summerlin, Las Vegas, NV  
Wade Hampton Golf Club, Cashiers, NC

#### Certified for Five Years or more

Aldeen Golf Club, Rockford, IL  
Aspen Golf Club, Aspen, CO  
Barton Creek Resort-Palmer Lakeside Course, Spicewood, TX  
Barton Creek Resort-Fazio/Crenshaw Courses, Austin, TX  
Bend Golf & Country Club, Bend, OR  
Blue Mound Golf & Country Club, Wauwatosa, WI  
Forest Hills Country Club, Loves Park, IL  
Keth Memorial Golf Course, Warrensburg, MO  
Lake Buena Vista Club, Lake Buena Vista, FL  
Landings Club-Deer Creek Golf Course, Savannah, GA  
Landings Club-Oakridge Golf Course, Savannah, GA  
Minnehaha Country Club, Sioux Falls, SD  
Ocean Course at Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head, SC  
Quail Ridge Country Club, Boynton Beach, FL  
Regatta Bay Golf and Country Club, Destin, FL  
Sea Marsh Golf Course-Sea Pines, Hilton Head Island, SC

Tartan Park Golf Course, Lake Elmo, MN  
Timarron Country Club, Southlake, TX  
TPC at Jasna Polana, Princeton, NJ

#### Certified for Two Years or more

Boonsboro Country Club, Lynchburg, VA  
Brooks Golf Club, Okoboji, IA  
Centre Hills Golf Course, Aurora, CO  
Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, MD  
Idlewild Country Club, Flossmoor, IL  
Keswick Hall at Monticello, Keswick, VA  
Springhill Golf Course, Aurora, CO  
Tahoe Donner Golf Club, Truckee, CA  
Wayzata Country Club, Wayzata, MN

## AUDUBON PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland, NY  
Olson Elementary School, Bloomington, MN  
Upper Canada College, Toronto, ON, Canada

### AUDUBON PARTNER AWARDS

Bay Meadows Elementary, Orlando, FL  
Citrus Elementary School, Vero Beach, FL  
Community Based Occupational Education at Triumph High School, Cheyenne, WY  
East View Elementary, Owensboro, KY  
Hobe Sound Elementary School, Hobe Sound, FL  
Little Keswick School, Keswick, VA  
T.J. Connor Elementary, Scottsville, NY

## AUDUBON SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

### NEW MEMBERS

Alico Golf Course, Ft. Myers, FL  
Cascade Highland Resort, Bend, OR  
Sanctuary Creek, Stuart, FL  
Sol y Vida, San Jose, Costa Rica  
Wilderness Trail, Banner Elk, NC

### RECENTLY CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Black Forest, Marion, NC  
Eagle Ridge Golf Club [Masters & Memorial], Summerfield, FL  
The Palisades, Charlotte, NC  
The Villages of Sumter Phase III-Key Largo

### RE-CERTIFIED SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES

Longaberger Golf Club, Nashport, OH, certified since 2001  
Sand Ridge Golf Club, Chardon, OH, certified since 1998  
West Bay Golf Club, Estero, FL, certified since 2000

## Summer Provides Opportunities to Get Into the Field

While much of our time is spent in front of computer monitors or on the phone, the summer months brought several opportunities for Audubon International staff to get into the field.

**Common Loon Research**—Fred Realbuto, Director of the Audubon Society of New York, joined colleagues from the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program in their fifth year of banding and testing for mercury in Common Loons in New York's Adirondack Park.

**EMS for Small Businesses**—Kevin Fletcher and Joellen Zeh met with officials from the U.S. EPA, the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Town of Bethlehem (NY), and Pat Blum of Colonial Acres Golf Course, to discuss how to get smaller companies involved in the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT), a program that recognizes environmental excellence. The meeting was a good forum to explore how smaller operations can meet NEPT criteria by working with Audubon International, and discuss where the challenges lie.

**Educator's Workshop**—Jean Mackay, Director of Educational Services, joined the staff of the Audubon Center in Maine on Hog Island (operated by the Maine Audubon Society) for a weeklong educator's workshop attended by teachers from Maine to Florida.

**Sanctuary Stewardship**—Our headquarters at Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary in upstate New York provided prime opportunities for our staff to experience the many joys and frustrations of managing land. From weeding gardens to marking trails to removing purple loosestrife to monitoring nest boxes, the tasks never end! Come visit!

## 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](mailto:acss@auduboninternational.org)



AUDUBON  
INTERNATIONAL

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