

120 Defreest Drive, Troy, NY 12180

T: 518.767.9051 F: 518.767.9076

W: www.auduboninternational.org

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CONTACT: Doug Bechtel, Associate Director of Environmental Programs
(518) 767-9051, Ext. 114
doug@auduboninternational.org

Sanctuary Lake Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

TROY, MI – Sanctuary Lake Golf Course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. James P. Vandenberghe, Area Golf Course Superintendent, led the effort to obtain sanctuary designation on the property and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Sanctuary Lake is the 10th golf course in Michigan and the 892nd in the world to be designated as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

"Sanctuary Lake Golf Course has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Doug Bechtel, Associate Director of Environmental Programs at Audubon International.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Bechtel. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

Audubon International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Troy, NY. In addition to golf courses, Audubon International also provides programs for businesses, schools, communities, and new developments with the purpose of delivering high-quality environmental education and facilitating the sustainable management of natural resources. For more information, call Audubon International at (518) 767-9051 or visit www.auduboninternational.org.

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