



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- March 2011
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Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Orchid, FL - Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club has retained its designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP), an Audubon International program. To reach certification, course personnel demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

Twenty years after its creation, the ACSP continues to promote ecologically-sound land management and conservation of natural resources on golf courses. Results of a recent survey to measure environmental outcomes of the ACSP provide strong support for the program's effectiveness. Queried on a number of environmental management practices, ACSP members reported improvements in wildlife habitat and water quality protection and conservation. For example, since joining the program, members reported that, on average, the percentage of natural shorelines around golf course water features jumped from 33% to 72%, providing more wildlife habitat, filtering runoff, and controlling erosion. Ninety-six percent reported using pesticides with a lower toxicity level since joining the program and 91% have mitigated risks through the program as a result of improved management practices.

Many golf courses are registered in the ACSP because it is considered "the right thing to do," but there is also a strong business case for voluntary environmental action. In these days of tightening budgets, many ACSP recommendations reduced costs. For example, 70% reduced pesticide costs, 52% reduced water costs, 66% reduced fertilizer costs, and, even during these times of decreasing rounds, 15% report that they have new golfers and/or members because of their involvement in the ACSP.

Audubon International is proud that Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club is one of 822 courses in the world to receive the honor, not only because of the environmental achievements of this



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course, but because of the model that it now represents to its surrounding community. It helps tell the story that good environmental stewardship is good business and leads to more sustainable communities.

Audubon International is an environmental organization dedicated to educating, assisting, and inspiring millions of people from all walks of life to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. In addition to golf courses, the Audubon International also provides programs for schools, businesses, communities, and individuals. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acsp@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org. For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.com.

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