

Audubon International Congratulates Winners of the Green Golfer Challenge

Selkirk, NY— In early 2009, Audubon International invited golfers and golf courses in the United States, Canada, and around the world to take part in the 2009 *Audubon Green Golfer Challenge*. The challenge was simple—build golfers’ environmental awareness by having them pledge to become an *Audubon Green Golfer* and support environmental stewardship actions while playing the game.

This year’s Green Golfer Challenge was divided into two sessions, with a total of 69 participating golf courses encouraging golfers to take the Green Golfer Pledge at their course or online at www.audubongreengolfer.com. Of the 69 golf courses, 59 courses participated in Session II collecting Green Golfer pledges that were submitted to Audubon International. Nearly 5,000 pledges were submitted. This is the third year of the Green Golfer Challenge with a total of 230 golf courses participating and nearly 15,000 Green Golfer pledges submitted.

The second session of the Green Golfer Challenge prize winners included a diverse range of both International and United States golf courses including two National Park Service golf courses in the Nation’s Capital, as well as private, resort, military, municipal, and residential community courses. Although any golf course—national or international—could participate, this year’s winners were all members of Audubon International programs. One course is a Certified Audubon International Signature Sanctuary course, and all of the other winners are members of the Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Session II winners included:

- 1st Okeehetee Golf Course (West Palm Beach, FL)**
- 2nd East Potomac Golf Course (Washington, DC)**
- 3rd Langston Golf Course (Washington, DC)**
- 4th Southwinds Golf Course (Boca Raton, FL)**

The Green Golfer pledges received during the Green Golfer Challenge demonstrate that golf courses can take a leadership role, through education and outreach, by creating a “green dialogue” to help golfers be a positive force for preserving the *nature* of the game. Their participation was essential for educating golfers, and in the process, demonstrating their own dedication and commitment to helping to build golfers’ environmental awareness and support.

Prizes for participating golf courses with the most golfer pledges submitted in the first session were awarded a variety of prizes, including signed art prints of famous golf course holes, Audubon International products, gift certificates from Coveside Conservation Products, and free memberships or renewals in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.