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### **Audubon International's Green Golfer Challenge a Rousing Success**

**Selkirk, NY**— Throughout 2008, Audubon International invited golfers and golf courses in the United States, Canada, and around the world to take part in the *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.

The pledges from participating golf courses were collected and counted by Audubon International with ongoing totals posted on Audubon International's Golf and Environment website. Tallying over 5,500 individual pledges—more than double the pledges received last year—from more than 100 golf course—again, nearly double the registrations received last year—a *green* dialogue between golfers and golf course management has been established.

Prizes for participating golf courses with the most golfer pledges submitted by the December 1, 2008 deadline were awarded a variety of prizes, including signed art prints, Audubon International apparel, gift certificates from Coveside Conservation Products, and free memberships or renewals in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

Of the participating international golf courses in the Challenge, The Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club in the Philippines had the greatest number of pledges, and, with the highest number of pledges for a US golf course, Harmony Preserve Golf Course in Harmony, Florida had the next greatest number of pledges.

The ten top golf courses with the most pledges were:

- The Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, Carmona, Cavitea, Philippines
- Harmony Golf Preserve, Harmony, FL
- Okeehelée Golf Course, West Palm Beach, FL
- Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, Harrison, TN

- Wildhorse Golf Club, Henderson, NV
- Lakeside Country Club, Houston, TX
- Southwinds Golf Course, Boca Raton, FL
- Clustered Spires Golf Club, Frederick, MD
- Riverbend Golf Club, Madera, CA
- Shanty Creek Resort & Golf Club, Bellaire, MI

Golfers who took the *Green Golfer Pledge* during 2008 are eligible for prizes in a random drawing in early 2009. Prizes for golfers include the grand prize of two tickets to the 2009 U.S. Open Championship at Bethpage State Park (Black Course), NY, autographed merchandise donated by the PGA of America, certificates for foursomes at any Walt Disney World ® Golf Course, and complimentary subscriptions to Golf Digest.

#### **About Audubon International**

Audubon International is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) environmental education organization dedicated to providing people with the education and assistance they need to practice responsible management of land, water, wildlife, and natural resources. Since 1991, Audubon International has been working with the United States Golf Association, The PGA of America, Club Managers Association of America, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to promote environmental education and stewardship in the game and on the course. Currently, over 2,100 golf courses across the United States and in two dozen countries are working with Audubon International.