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Riverbend Golf Club Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence

MADERA, CA – The Riverbend Golf Club golf course has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Michael Stieler, Golf Course Superintendent, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on the course. Riverbend Golf Club was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2002 and is one of 787 courses in the world to receive the honor.

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, Mexico, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

"Riverbend Golf Club 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 Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Sluiter. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Courses go through a recertification process every two years. For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.org.

Audubon International is a not-for-profit, environmental education 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. Its award-winning education and certification programs, has helped more than 5,800 businesses, golf courses, schools, communities, and new developments improve environmental performance and manage natural resources responsibly on more than one million acres of land. For more information, contact Audubon International at (518) 767-9051 or acsp@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.

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