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Somerby Golf Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

BYRON, MN – The Somerby Golf Club has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Casey Conlin, Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Somerby Golf Club is the 20th course in Minnesota and the 584th in the world to receive the honor.

“Somerby 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 Shawn Williams, 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 Williams. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

“Throughout the whole process of working with Audubon International to become a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary has been rewarding in establishing credibility and validating our facilities commitment toward environmental awareness and stewardship,” said Superintendent, Casey Conlin. “All facilities operated by O.B. Sports Golf Management demonstrate considerable focus on promoting elements of the Audubon Program,” Conlin says. “Being part of a larger community, I believe it’s my inherent responsibility to do what it takes to promote the preservation and enhancement of the environment that we all live in and share. Participation in this program is only the first step in our ongoing efforts at Somerby Golf Club to provide an environmentally friendly lifestyle that’s sustainable for generations.”

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, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. Audubon certified courses in Minnesota also include: Baker National Golf Course in Medina, Birnamwood Golf Course in Burnsville, Braemar Golf Course in Edina, Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville, Hastings Country Club in Hastings,



Izatys Golf and Yacht Club in Onamia, The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, Meadowbrook Golf Course in Hopkins, Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights, Superior National at Lutsen in Lutsen, Tartan Park Golf Course in Lake Elmo, Theodore Wirth Golf Course in Minneapolis, Town and Country Club in Saint Paul, Tournament Players Club of the Twin Cities in Blaine, Wayzata Country Club in Wayzata, White Bear Yacht Club in White Bear Lake, Wilderness Golf Course at Fortune Bay Resort in Tower, and Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata.

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acss@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.

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