



Audubon International Golf and the Environment Initiative  
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## Audubon International Launches Golf Team

May 10, 2012

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In an effort to create direct connections with the thousands of golfers around the globe that supports the conservation efforts taken at golf courses, Audubon International has launched the Audubon International Golf Team. Team membership is based on an annual membership fee of \$25.00 and includes a quarterly newsletter that will update the golf and environment efforts associated with the organization's [Golf and the Environment Initiative](#) being undertaken at the many Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and Signature Sanctuary golf courses around the globe. Each member will receive an Audubon Golf Team bag tag to indicate their Team membership as they play the game. A [Green Golfer Pledge](#) has been created as part of Team membership, indicating that Team Members will practice conservation while playing the game and support the work of golf course superintendents, course owners and managers, who are practicing sound environmental management as part of their course management efforts.

"The creation of the Audubon Golf Team is brand new and as a matter of fact it will be officially launched on May 14<sup>th</sup> when the first 4 Audubon Golf Team Members will be playing in a golf tournament called the Akridge Save the Bay Classic, which is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Audubon International. This is the fifth year of the tournament, but the first time that an Audubon Golf Team has played," said Ron Dodson, President of Audubon International who is one of the four Audubon Team members playing in the tournament next week.

To keep the activities of the Audubon Golf Team posted in a visible location, an Audubon Golf Team blog has been created and can be seen at: <http://audubongolfteam.blogspot.com>

In addition to creating the Team to better communicate with golfers, the Team formation is just a part of a larger effort to generate funding in support of the Audubon Golf and the Environment Initiative, including funding to offer a series of grants specific to high priority conservation projects in selected regions that Audubon International has designated as Important Bioregions. For the coming year the two areas of primary focus are the Chesapeake Bioregion which is centered on the Chesapeake Bay and the Mohawk Hudson Bioregion, which is focused on upstate New York and the Mohawk and Hudson River Basins.

"Some people may think that Audubon International is a golf centric organization without a major environmental focus. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We are a not-for-profit environmental organization with a focus on improving the environment, by working cooperatively with people where they live, work and play. Properly sited, designed and managed golf courses can provide the best that traditional development offers and the best that a conservation focused effort can offer. Audubon International created the entire approach to education and certification of proper, conservation oriented golf course management and we are now pleased to launch the Audubon International Golf Team to bring the millions of people who love and play the game of golf into the movement in a much more focused and meaningful way," concluded Dodson.

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