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CONTACT: Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist
(518) 767-9051, Ext. 116
jsluiter@auduboninternational.org
www.auduboninternational.org

La Paloma Country Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

TUCSON, AZ – La Paloma Country Club, part of the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. David Stout, Course Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. La Paloma Country Club is the 16th course in Arizona and the 781st in the world to receive the honor.

"The La Paloma Country 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.

"Our goal with working towards this certification was to not only create an outstanding golf experience, but most importantly to minimize our impact on the environment" said Bill Petrella, general manager of the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa. "We are proud to be recognized by Audubon International for the work we've invested in our surrounding desert landscape, and very pleased to be among two other golf courses in Southern Arizona to have received this designation."

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, and Southeast Asia have achieved certification in the program.

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