

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf is an award winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect our environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. By helping people enhance the valuable natural areas and wildlife habitats that golf courses provide, improve efficiency, and minimize potentially harmful impacts of golf course operations, the program serves an important environmental role worldwide. Audubon International has developed Standard Environmental Management Practices that are generally applicable to all golf courses. These standards form the basis for ACSP for Golf Certification guidelines.

Woodside Golf course has been a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 2008. The golf course began its naturalization program in 2005 and continues to expand that program to include other components of the golf course. The expansion of the program has had an immediate impact on all of the positive aspects noted and continues to provide financial return to the club on an annual basis.

In January 2013, the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association in concert with award sponsor Club Car announced that Bruce Constable, Master Superintendent, CGCS at Woodside Golf Course, In Airdrie, Alberta would be the CGSA Environmental recipient for 2013.

Bruce's selection for the award is based on the Golf Course Naturalization Process that has been established for the Woodside property. As noted in his application, "...the simple naturalization of 9.2 acres of turf has had a much greater impact than we could have imagined." Constable's application reviewed the impacts on resource conservation including reductions in fuel, water, fertilizer, labour, equipment use and related inputs, wildlife habitat preservation and the creation of community outreach."...Woodside is an excellent example of how a golf course in a suburban setting, with a limited budget and small crew, can achieve amazing goals.

The CGSA Environmental Achievement Award sponsored by Club Car is awarded annually to the superintendent whose submission is judged to be the best example of an activity, project or management approach that improves the sustainability of the golf facility. Consideration is given to initiatives that demonstrate the potential for ongoing benefits, the capture of measurable results and the feasibility of the initiative being applied to other facilities.