

Ballyneal recognized for environmental excellence

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Ballyneal Golf Club has retained its designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program.

Participation is designed to help course personnel plan, organize, implement and document a comprehensive environmental management program and receive recognition for their efforts.

To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality management.

“Ballyneal 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 Joellen Lampman, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary programs director at Audubon International.

Ballyneal Golf Club is one of 37 courses in Colorado and 883 courses in the world to receive the honor. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, South America and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

The golf course was designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2010. After designation, courses go through a recertification process every two years.

This year, the recertification process, coordinated by Ted Simmons, assistant superintendent at Ballyneal Golf Club, required a visit by a local community representative. Fred Raish, supervisor at Yuma County Pest Control District, was given a tour of the course and sent his observations to Audubon International.

“The Ballyneal Golf Club is continually working to be a good steward of the land,” reported

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Raish. "I was impressed by the lack of impact this course has had on the native vegetation and the sand hills."

"We see the site visit as an important component of a course's recertification," stated Lampman. "It provides an objective verification of some of the more visible aspects of the course's environmental management activities. In addition, it offers an opportunity for golf course representatives to share publicly some of the voluntary actions they have taken to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife and natural resources around them."

Audubon International is an environmental 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. In addition to golf courses, the Audubon International also provides programs for schools, businesses, communities and individuals.

For more information, contact Audubon International, 120 Defreest Dr., Troy, NY 12180, USA, 518-767-9051, email them via the Internet at acss@auduboninternational.org or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.

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