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### **Cherry Island Golf Course Recognized for Environmental Excellence**

ELVERTA, CA – Cherry Island Golf Course has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Cherry Island Golf Course is the 50<sup>th</sup> course in California and the 795<sup>th</sup> in the world to receive the honor.

"Cherry Island Golf Course 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.

"We at Empire Golf are extremely proud to have achieved this designation. Kurtis Wolford, our Head Golf Course Superintendant and GCSAA Member, began this project two years ago at Cherry Island. Kurtis and his staff's commitment has been tireless and we will now begin the process of completing the certification at the other golf course properties under our management", said Empire Golf, Inc. President Rod Metzler.

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 Canada, Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, Mexico, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program.

For more information on golf and the environment, visit [www.golfandenvironment.org](http://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](mailto:acsp@auduboninternational.org), or visit their website at [www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org)