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Dedham Country and Polo Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

DEDHAM, MA – Dedham Country and Polo Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Michael Stachowicz, Grounds Manager, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Dedham Country and Polo Club is one of nine courses in Massachusetts and the 631st in the world to receive the honor.

“Dedham Country and Polo 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 Zeh, Program Manager 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 Zeh. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

“Personally, this is one of the proudest moments of my career,” said Stachowicz. “But, further than that, this certification is something that is going to make the club members proud. They are a group who see themselves as stewards of the property they own and they want to maintain it in a sustainable way for the long term betterment of the property and their children.”

“I am grateful to Warren Wells and Eric Cutler, long term members of the Natural Resource committee, for their commitment to the care of the bird feeders and houses,”



continued Stachowicz. “Their records and notes were amazingly detailed and a huge help in certification. Slater Smith, chairman of Natural Resources, was extremely helpful in pushing the certification process along. Green and Grounds Committee Chair Linc Cornell’s vision for a natural course that harkens back to the traditions of the game was a great inspiration for this process.”

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 also achieved certification in the program. Audubon certified courses in Massachusetts also include: Hyannisport Club in Hyannisport, Widow’s Walk Golf Course in Scituate, New Seabury Country Club in New Seabury, Olde Scotland Links Golf Course in Bridgewater, Plymouth Country Club in Plymouth, Sterling Country Club in Sterling, Tournament Players Club of Boston in Norton, and Winchester Country Club in Winchester.

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 acss@auduboninternational.org, or visit their website at www.auduboninternational.org.

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