



**CHESTER GOLF CLUB GOLF COURSE
RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE**

CHESTER, SC – The **Chester Golf Club Golf Course** has achieved designation as a "**Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary**" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Hall Atkinson, course superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Chester Golf Club is the 25th course in South Carolina and the 707th in the world to receive the honor.

"Chester 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 Jim Sluiter, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that it is 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.

Chester Golf Club is owned and operated by **Leroy Springs & Company**, a non-profit company dedicated to supporting the recreation, education, and community needs of citizens in Chester Township, Fort Mill Township and Lancaster County in South Carolina.

The company operates golf courses in all three communities and oversees operations of the Anne Springs Close Greenway and Leroy Springs Recreation Complex, both in Fort Mill, as well as the Leroy Springs Recreation Center in Chester. The company's **Springfield Golf Club**, located in Fort Mill, earned the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation in June 2008.

"Hall Atkinson and his staff are to be commended for the commitment they have shown in achieving this certification," said Tim Patterson, president of Leroy Springs & Company. "The time and thought that goes into this type of an effort makes an organization re-think many old habits. We have developed new, environmentally sensitive procedures and will be better stewards of the land as a result."

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.

Located in Chester, SC, Chester Golf Club is a semi-private facility open to daily-fee play and annual memberships. For further information or to book a tee-time at Chester Golf Club call the golf shop at 803-581-5733 or visit online at www.leroysprings.com.

About Audubon International

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.

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