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CONTACT:

Nancy E. Richardson, Director
Signature Programs
Audubon International
Phone: (270) 869-9419
Fax: (270) 869-9956
Email: nrichardson@audubooninternational.org
Web: http://www.auduboninternational.org

CHAMBERS BAY GOLF COURSE RECEIVES AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL SILVER SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION.

HENDERSON, KY (9/6/2007) – Audubon International announced today that Chambers Bay Golf Course is the first golf course to become certified as a Silver Signature Sanctuary in the state of Washington and in the Pacific Northwest. Signature certification is awarded only to new developments which are designed, constructed, and maintained according to Audubon International's precise planning standards and environmental disciplines. The focus of the Signature Program is to promote sound land management practices and appropriate land use changes based on sound scientific research.

Using a property that was already disturbed by mining on a former Glacier/Lone Star Northwest Gravel Mine site at University Place near Tacoma, Audubon International worked cooperatively with Pierce County on 250 acres to restore habitat and to provide a cohesive educational program aimed at golfers, areas resident and trail users. The entire project covers 928-acres of Chambers Creek Properties containing parcels that included 650 acres of gravel mines, two miles of shoreline, and 3 miles long forest ravine and creek with a backdrop of Puget Sound, McNeil and Fox Islands and a western horizon framed by the Olympic Mountains.

"From the time of their initial registration in the Signature Program, Pierce County has

demonstrated a willingness to make decisions that positively affect wildlife habitat, water conservation, and the ecosystems that sustain life," states Signature Programs Director, Nancy Richardson. "Their commitment to environmental excellence will continue to provide significant benefits to the natural resources on and surrounding the golf course property and to the citizens that use the property."

Chambers Bay Golf Course is an 18-hole walking-only, public resort links style golf course divided by the SoundView multi-purpose trail. Residents from surrounding areas walk, jog, and enjoy the views. The SoundView Trail system was opened to the public May 5, 2007 and welcomes dogs, families, bicycles, walkers, and runners. It provides public access right through the golf course and along the western edge of the property bordering Puget Sound. In 1970's the site was the most productive sand mine in U.S. and when the entire project is completed, will have the longest expanse of public beaches in Washington State. The only indication of the sand and gravel mine are structures left to show the mine heritage along the south edge of hole #18.

But arguably the most impressive natural features on the site are the dunes created during the construction process and vegetated with native plants and grasses. Course designers, Bruce Charlton and Jay Blasi with Robert Trent Jones II, created a layout that restored the land to look like it was carved right out of dunes.

Many holes are isolated by the dunes while others are breathtaking because of the changes in elevations. Although there are no trees on the property except the lone Douglas fir behind #16 tee, terrestrial wildlife will find shelter within the adjacent Northern Forest Preserve of mixed conifer-deciduous forest with dominant species of Douglas fir, Pacific madrone, red cedar and ocean spray.

To become certified, each Signature member must implement management of the property according to a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) for the property addressing the following: Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Enhancement, Water Quality Monitoring and Management, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, and Waste Management. The designation of Certified Silver Signature Sanctuary is contingent upon the quality and completeness of the NRMP and its implementation.

To date, only twenty-two other properties world-wide have achieved the coveted Silver Signature Certification.

Audubon International is a not-for-profit environmental education 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. By helping people make sound environmental decisions and take environmentally responsible actions, Audubon International seeks to foster more sustainable human and natural communities. The organization works with more than 3,000 properties and communities in 26 different countries.

To learn more about the Signature Programs, contact Nancy Richardson at (270) 869-9419 or e-mail at nrichardson@auduboninternational.org

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