

## **Stone Mountain Golf Course environmental stewardship**

The Stone Mountain Golf Club has taken environmental stewardship initiatives under the direction of Head Golf Superintendent, Anthony Williams, CGCS. The Golf Club offers two courses - Stonemont and Lakemont-located on the north side of the mountain, adjacent to the lake and winding through forested and rock outcrop areas. The Club and Mr. Williams received recognition for their efforts by winning the 2006 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for the National Public course category as well as the overall award (Winning over the National Resort, National Private and International course winners to become world champions). Mr. Williams concentrated his efforts on water management. He developed a detailed water-quality testing program and filed a Best Management Practices for water management with the state of Georgia. For more information, go to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

The Stone Mountain Golf Club is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Audubon International provides information and guidance to property managers interested in creating an environmental plan for their property. Those joining the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) inventory their property resources and conservation practices, then create an environmental plan of action. Golf course members receive certification after meeting the following five environmental management standards for Wildlife and Habitat Management, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Quality Management, Water Conservation, and Outreach and Education. Some projects by Mr. Williams include installing bluebird nest boxes around the golf course, reducing chemical use, and maintaining select areas, such as near the lakes, as meadows.

Marriott International subleases the running of the Stone Mountain Golf Club, Evergreen Conference Center and Stone Mountain Inn. Mr. Williams helped Evergreen Conference Center earn Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for business status in January, 2007. This is the first hotel in the country to attain this honor and the 55<sup>th</sup> property worldwide. This certification requires businesses to complete projects in Wildlife and Habitat Management, Resource Conservation, Waste Management, and Outreach and Education.

Due to these efforts, the Stone Mountain Golf Club and Evergreen Conference Center were chosen as the 2007 winners of the "Because Green Matters" Award presented by Project Evergreen. Project Evergreen works to raise awareness of the benefits of landscapes and promote those who preserve green spaces. Businesses and individuals in charge of public and private green spaces are encouraged to become involved with Project Evergreen. More information about this organization can be found at [www.projectevergreen.com](http://www.projectevergreen.com).