

GREEN DEVELOPMENT

at Old Greenwood Golf Course

STORY BY SORANA BUCUR



(Above) On par with perfection (opposite page) Impeccably designed by Jack Nicklaus photos by Albert Lewis

In natural areas as sensitive as the Lake Tahoe basin, community growth and development are controversial and even contentious issues. However, East West Partners have been able to maintain Tahoe's natural resources using environmental sustainability in creating Old Greenwood Golf Course. This course consists of 18 holes of perfection, which wind through towering pines, blue sage meadows and rolling hills designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Working under the guidance, oversight and in cooperation with Audubon International, designers implemented sustainable construction practices during the construction and continue to maintain and manage the course in a manner that promotes pristine wildlife habitat. Audubon International awards environmental stewardship for golf course developments that preserve the ecological habitat to the greatest extent possible.

Audubon International is currently

in the final stages of review of the components needed to certify Old Greenwood as an Audubon Signature Gold Level Community, the highest level of certification. The elements under consideration include the overall assessment of the property, wildlife habitat enhancement and management, waste management, energy efficiency, water quality and conservation, and integrated pest management. The lakes and streams at Old Greenwood are interconnected and



have been designed to be prime rainbow trout habitat. Bird and bat houses have been placed at numerous locations throughout the property to enhance species reproduction and manage the site's insect population. Additionally, Old Greenwood has several migration corridors for the California black tail deer in the preserved open space adjacent to the golf course, which further enhances the

cooperation between nature and human encroachment.

Keeping in line with green practices, Old Greenwood Golf Course has implemented an organic turf management system throughout the community and golf course, which enables turf development without the use of chemical fertilizers. The use of organic products keeps chemicals out of Old Greenwood's water systems and sig-

nificantly reduces the exposure of chemicals to ecological resources.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Golf Digest Magazine recognized Old Greenwood's Director of Agronomy, Joel Blaker, with an Environmental Leaders in Golf Award of Merit in 2004. The award recognizes golf course superintendents and their courses for overall course management excellence. [44](#)