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The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort recognized for Environmental Excellence by Audubon International

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. – The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), an Audubon International program.

The Sanctuary, a AAA Five Diamond-rated hotel, is the first property in South Carolina and the 58th in the world to be certified in the ACSP. Seventeen golf courses in South Carolina have been designated as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries, including Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Ocean Course and Cougar Point, through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

“The Sanctuary has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. It is to be commended for its efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on property,” says Joellen Zeh, Program Manager for the ACSP. “By taking action to implement indoor and outdoor conservation projects, the management and staff at The Sanctuary have demonstrated their commitment to the sustainable management of their natural resources.”

The Sanctuary opened in August 2004, and features 255 rooms and suites. It sits on a 25-acre oceanfront site, surrounded by 20 acres of undisturbed maritime forest, 400 transplanted Live Oak and Palmetto trees, and a variety of gardens filled with indigenous flora and fauna, and drought-tolerant plants. Inside, the hotel has a recycling program, practices water and energy conservation and uses glassware, not disposables. Guests can voluntarily make a donation of \$2 per night to the Kiawah Island Nature Conservancy, and also enjoy The Discovery Room, which is staffed by resort naturalists. A variety of walking tours, highlighting the island's natural habitat, originate from this location.

“This is a very important designation to achieve,” says Vijay Singh, The Sanctuary's Hotel Manager. “The award is reflective of the name we chose for the hotel and its natural landscape architecture. We made a conscious effort to blend The Sanctuary into the island's environment and ecosystem, and are thankful for the work of our horticulturalist, Pete Nelson.”

To achieve the Audubon certification, a business must demonstrate that they maintain a high degree of environmental quality in a variety of categories, including Environmental

Planning, Wildlife Habitat Management, Resource Conservation, Waste Management, and Outreach and Education.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program provides information and guidance to help businesses and organizations preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Businesses, schools, golf courses, and backyards from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. For more information, visit www.auduboninternational.org.

Located along 10 miles of pristine beach just south of Charleston, SC, Kiawah Island Golf Resort is rated as the country's top golf resort by *Travel + Leisure Golf*. It includes The Sanctuary – a AAA Five Diamond-rated, 255-room hotel and spa – and 600 private villas and luxury homes. The resort has five championship golf courses, including The Ocean Course – host of the 1991 Ryder Cup, the 2007 Senior PGA and 2012 PGA championships. The resort also ranks as the number one tennis resort in the world, has nine restaurants, and features a renowned recreation and nature program. For more information, visit www.kiawahresort.com or call 800-654-2924.