



Stewardship

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Driving Change in the Home Building Industry

BY KRAIG MARQUIS

Two new residential communities—Pelican Preserve in Ft. Myers and Evergrene in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida—are the first to be certified by Audubon International as *Gold Signature Sustainable Developments*. This means that these two communities are built to insure that residents and nature co-exist in harmony.

A 38-acre Cypress wetland preserve with a boardwalk, over two miles of nature trails, Florida's highest rated energy efficient homes, a village center designed to bring residents together, built-in watershed protection measures, landscaping and natural areas that showcase Florida's native plants and habitats... these are just a few of the features that make Pelican Preserve and Evergrene unique.

Evergrene and Pelican Preserve are the result of Audubon International's partnership with WCI Communities,



The time is right to advance green building in Florida given the state's phenomenal population growth. Audubon International and WCI hope that Evergrene's Geni-G will spur homebuyers to choose conservation features and spark other developers to build greener homes, too.

Inc. (WCI), a leading builder of residential communities. Working hand-in-hand since May 2001, WCI and Audubon International are driving change in the homebuilding industry, encouraging the adoption of green building principles and the importance of building sustainable developments. Given Florida's phenomenal population growth, the push for greener development couldn't be timelier. From 1990 to 2000 Florida's population grew by 23.5%, with an increase of three million people. Florida leads the nation in housing starts, attracting more than 900 new residents every day.

"WCI's commitment to building sustainable communities is unmatched in the industry. The company's dedication to constantly push the envelope, explore leading-edge green building opportunities, and embrace educating customers and key stakeholders is what ultimately led to this well-deserved certification," said

Audubon International President and CEO Ronald G. Dodson. "They are a company that backs up their commitments with resources that lead to results."

"WCI is honored to receive this outstanding recognition from Audubon International. At WCI, we believe we have an inherent responsibility to protect our environment for future generations. Our legacy will ultimately be marked by our ability to mainstream green building and sustainability into the home building industry," said Al Hoffman, WCI's Chief Executive Officer.

From initial concept to build-out, Evergrene and Pelican Preserve embrace Audubon International's Principles of Sustainability, which include:

- Incorporating the unique natural attributes of each piece of land into an appropriate development design,
- Protecting local wildlife,



A tunnel under a road at Pelican Preserve provides safe passage for wildlife.

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- Conserving and maximizing native and naturalized plants,
- Commitment to water quality and conservation,
- Commitment to green building,
- Dedication to education and outreach on nurturing sustainable communities.

“We believe these two sustainable communities are just the beginning,” said Dodson. “WCI is clearly leading the way for individuals and builders to drive change and help protect our natural resources. *One person...one home...one community...one industry at a time.*” ●



Florida's native habitats are featured in the designs of both Evergrene and Pelican Preserve.

Evergrene

- 364-acre development in Palm Beach Gardens on the East Coast of Florida
- Features *Geni-G**- the green demonstration home is Florida highest rated by the Florida Green Building Coalition
- Over two miles of nature trails
- Designed for families with a community center for picnics, evening programs, and environmental education classes
- Features a freshwater lake for fishing, canoeing, and other recreational activities
- Audubon International involvement assisted WCI in saving wetland and upland habitats
- Interconnected habitats and wildlife crossings enable wildlife to move throughout the property and reduce potential for road kill

* See *Stewardship News November-December 2003* for details on *Geni-G* or visit <http://www.green-generation.org>.

Pelican Preserve

- A 1,017-acre, active adult community in Fort Myers, on Florida's West Coast
- Features a 38-acre cypress wetland preserve with boardwalk and walking trail
- Homes are built to incorporate *green building* principles
- Master irrigation system ensures efficient watering for both the homes and golf courses
- Community center and wetland boardwalk complex combine to offer outstanding environmental education and recreation opportunities for residents
- Design features and Integrated Pest Management practices, as well as the offsite created mitigation wetlands, protect downstream waters, including Six Mile Cypress Slough and Estero Bay