

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CALLANAN INDUSTRIES RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD—Employees at Callanan Industries, Inc. Cordell Road Facility, an Oldcastle Materials company, received international recognition for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium, *Evergreen: A Celebration of Conservation in a Changing World*. Oldcastle Materials demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving *Wildlife at Work*<sup>SM</sup> recertification at the Cordell Road Facility.

“The Wildlife Habitat Council believes that collaboration among all stakeholder groups is critical to addressing the complex issues facing the sustainability of the planet,” said Robert Johnson, WHC President. “WHC members take a leading role in connecting community stakeholders through wildlife habitat enhancement, community outreach and conservation education. Congratulations to Oldcastle Materials for their commitment to a healthy natural world and connected communities.”

The Cordell Road Facility is located in the north-western portion of Albany County, New York. The property consists of approximately 88 acres, of which 25 acres remain as wetland and undeveloped woodland to serve as wildlife habitat. The wildlife team implements a number of projects to enhance the rare Albany inland pine barrens ecosystem where it is located.

A major component of the site's wildlife habitat program is the creation and protection of habitat for rare flora and herpetofauna. The wildlife team created an additional vernal pool on the property that included the placement of basking logs along shorelines and grading steep bank slopes to ease wildlife migrations between water bodies. The site's species management plan also includes shore/ slope plantings using native vegetation, and improving pond substrates by placing organic soil material from previously cleared areas. The team works with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to monitor species populations that frequent the wetlands on-site.

The Cordell Road wildlife team has also worked diligently to deter trespassing on the property by all-terrain vehicle (ATV) users. They have installed fencing and barriers in and around enhancement and wetland areas to eliminate use by ATVs. Additional site work has also included creating a nature trail and an outdoor learning program along some of the former ATV trails.

The wildlife team continues to maintain and monitor nest boxes around the site to improve the habitat for the eastern bluebird and other avifauna. Native trees and herbaceous vegetation have also been planted to improve bird habitat.

The Cordell Road Facility was one of 238 sites recognized at the 2009 Symposium for creating a *Wildlife at Work* program. In addition, 47 *Corporate Lands for Learning*<sup>SM</sup> (CLL) programs were recognized, reaching thousands of learners from schools and scout groups to master gardeners and university researchers. Since 1990, WHC has

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certified 560 *Wildlife at Work* and 113 *CLL* programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 48 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit [www.wildlifehc.org](http://www.wildlifehc.org).