

**Comprehensive public golf course program**

# Cocoa Beach Country Club reaches out and educates

BY SHELLY FOY  
*USGA Green Section*

Rich Roth, Golf Course Superintendent at Cocoa Beach Country Club has helped his golf course become the first fully certified public golf course in Florida in the popular Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Cocoa Beach Country Club has excelled in the Education and Outreach Certification category by implementing the following:

Forming an excellent Resource Committee, including: the community relations director for the City, the owner of a local wetland farm who helps provide expertise on aquatic plants, the City of Cocoa Beach wastewater director, a resident/volunteer who is a member of the local Audubon Society and helps with bird surveys and monitoring nestboxes, a chief reporter for the local newspaper, the environmental analyst for the city, as well as several company representatives providing information on biological controls.

Having a newspaper reporter on the Resource Committee has proven to be an asset in public education, as there have been several articles in the local paper regarding the club's involvement in the



*There is a large photo display in the clubhouse of some of the birds found on the golf course. Photo by Richard Roth.*



*Signs inform golfers of environmentally sensitive areas on the golf course. Photo by Richard Roth.*



Caption: Each hole on the course is named after a bird found on the golf course. Photo by Richard Roth

Audubon Program and detailing projects they are working on.

The course has participated in bird surveys, as well as installed nestboxes on property.

Several displays are set-up promoting involvement in the ACSP. All certification certificates are placed in very visible areas.

There is also a large photo display on the birds found at Cocoa Beach Country Club. Each golf hole is named after one of the birds found on the course.

Educational signs are posted on the golf course to inform golfers of naturalization areas, as well as turtle nesting areas.

They encourage golfers and staff, as well as city employees to participate in enhancement projects such as mangrove plantings along the shoreline, as well as monitoring nestboxes and developing a wildlife inventory.

Golf course superintendent Rich Roth has given several interviews for local radio stations discussing the ACSP and Cocoa Beach Country Club's involvement.

Plans are under way to sponsor a local school in the ACSP for schools.

"On any given day at the Cocoa Beach Golf Course, you will most likely encounter such wildlife as alligators, raccoons, rabbits and possums," says Roth. "Resident and Resource Committee member, Phyllis Mansfield recently conducted a bird survey on the golf course and in one hour and a half counted 495 birds representing 37 species."

Rich Roth, congratulations to Cocoa Beach Country Club on becoming a fully certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary!

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