

will enable the school to become an important environmental base for the Jupiter area, while eventually achieving certification with the ACSP for Schools.

There are plans already in the works for several of the 59 acres that encompass the school property. Building a state-of-the-art environmental center in the southern section of land by the wetlands will enhance the ACSP program to another level.

Jupiter Farms' close proximity to superintendent Mike Ballard's course, Cypress Links Golf Club and to my course, Jonathan's Landing Old Trail Country Club will enable us to have a "hands on" relationship with the school. Several other superintendents, including Chip Fowkes at Frenchman's Creek, have expressed a desire to be involved in the development of this program and can help in making presentations to the community on our progress.

According to Audubon International,

the concept of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System was to create an international program designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property.

Schools in the program protect and learn about our natural heritage through stewardship projects that enhance wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources on school grounds.

Rather than focusing on field trips or environmental studies of exotic places and wildlife species, the program provides information and guidance to help schools turn part of their grounds into natural areas that attract wildlife.

This program encourages the school to develop an outdoor classroom and adopt indoor conservation projects such as water and energy reduction, recycling and composting.

"By creating a sanctuary at the school, students build a lasting relationship with their environment and are empowered

with the knowledge that their actions do make a difference," explained Joellen Zeh, staff ecologist for the Audubon International. "We welcome Jupiter Farms School's commitment to environmentally responsible property management and environmental education.

By joining and participating in the ACSP, the school will be involved in projects that enhance wildlife habitat and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community, while offering students engaging environmental education projects.

These projects may include: placing nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds such as bluebirds and purple martins; using native plants in gardens to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds; conserving water and energy; composting; and recycling.

"The Cooperative Sanctuary System benefits both people and the environment," said Zeh.

ACSP FOR SCHOOLS

Palm Beach GCSA makes natural link with Kidstown

BY JEFF KLONTZ

Country Club of Florida

The Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendents Association wants to make a difference in environmental education. With funds from our annual Futures of Golf Tournament, we adopted Kidstown Learning Center into the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for Schools.

Kidstown Learning Center in Boynton Beach has children from infants to 12 years old. The teachers plan to educate students about the environment they live and play in. The Audubon program will enhance children's value to belong with nature and will teach them to respect the earth's natural resources.

Paula Poupore, owner of Kidstown Learning Center, was very interested in working jointly with the PBGCSA to



Using funds from their annual Futures of Golf Tournament, the Palm Beach GCSA helped Kidstown Learning Center build a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden and a vegetable garden.

incorporate the Audubon program into the curriculum at the school.

The first step was creating a plan.

Since the property was under construction, we enlisted Buzz Jaskela, a landscape architect, to help create a plan of action that would incorporate all aspects of the school program developed by

Audubon International. Before drawing up this plan, we met with teachers to get their input into projects they would like to see developed for the children.

Within 30 days, we had a plan of action that included a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden, and a project the teachers expressed the most

interest in — a vegetable garden. The PBGCSA also had a special interest in some burrowing owls that were located on the property, and this was also included in the plan.

Our first project, in June, was to re-create the burrowing owl habitat on the property. The owls had relocated to a vacant lot due west of the school. Damian Flaso, superintendent at Villa Delray, Steven Bernard, superintendent at Emerald Dunes, Jim Cassells and myself, helped build and install two perches to be placed on the west side of the building.

We also started two burrows in the ground. This future habitat area is within 20 feet of the building, and the children will be able to watch the owls from the classroom. This required the relocation of some existing cocoplum and the removal of a black olive tree that did not survive the original landscaping.

Within 30 days, we had a plan of action that included a butterfly garden, aviary, caterpillar garden, and a project the teachers expressed the most interest in — a vegetable garden.

Phase two of the plan was accomplished in July.

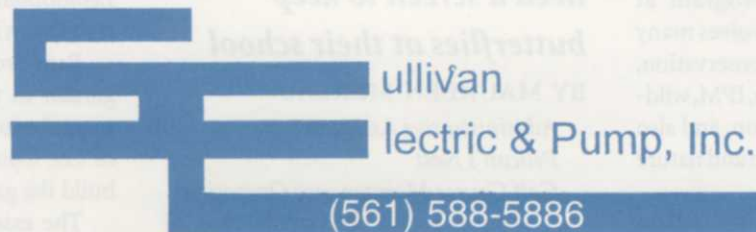
An aviary was created at the far southeastern corner of the property. An area of high maintenance that required weed-eating on a routine basis, the lawn maintenance crew was happy to see us remove the sod and replace it with native plant material.

Karl Schmidt, superintendent at Atlantis Golf Club, Steve Hamilton from Hamilton Grading, Jim Cassells, Buzz Jaskela, Leonardo Flores, assis-

tant superintendent at Country Club of Florida, and myself, installed the garden that included plants such as Beauty Berry, Wild Coffee, Porterweed, Bottle Brush and an Orange Geiger Tree.

Sue Shaw, assistant director of Kidstown Learning Center, and teachers helped to get the children involved by showing them how to plant, fertilize and water the plant material.

The plants were all donated by Boynton Botanical in Boynton Beach.



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The project took three hours to complete

The compost was donated from Atlas Peat and Soil. Jim Cassells donated a recycled birdhouse, and we plan to add a birdfeeder and birdbath.

The project took three hours to complete. We want to thank all of our volunteers and suppliers that helped to make this bird aviary a success.

Next phases begin soon

In the near future, we will start the other phases of the project, including a butterfly garden, vegetable garden and caterpillar garden.

Paul Popore would like Kidstown Learning Center to be the first fully certified Audubon School Sanctuary in Palm Beach County.

With the help of the PBGCSA, we plan to accomplish this within two years. We would also like to help other schools get involved in the Audubon school program.

The Audubon school program at Kidstown Learning Center involves many other areas related to water conservation, recycling, energy conservation, IPM, wild-life enhancement and education, and also includes an outdoor classroom and nature trail.

The success of the program depends on teacher participation, and children who want to learn more about the environment. The PBGCSA will continue to act as volunteers, specializing in native plantings and soil amendments.



The butterfly garden at the Spring Creek Elementary School becomes a reality through the involvement of the school, community and Pelican's Nest Golf Course.

Butterfly Extreme
Kids learned they didn't need a screen to keep butterflies at their school

BY MAUREEN MERLAU

Administrative Assistant

Pelican's Nest

Golf Course Maintenance Operations

The most recent fifth grade class of teacher Pam Schroeder at the Spring Creek Elementary School in Bonita Springs introduced a question after raising butterflies and releasing them September '96.

"Why can't we keep them here?" was

what the children wanted to know.

Pam responded there might be a way. It took some convincing that the garden doesn't need to be screened in to keep the Lepidoptera around. According to Pam, it's a lesson in "build it and they will come."

Pam brought the idea of the butterfly garden to the attention of the environmental education mini grant department of Lee County and requested money to build the garden.

The existing ground cover was inadequate and unsuccessful at attracting butterflies. In February 97, the students' continued enthusiasm and interest, along with a go-ahead from the mini grant department to research the building of a butterfly

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