

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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garden, prompted Pam to contact the school's sponsor for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The Maintenance Operations for Pelican's Nest Golf Course in Bonita Springs was very much interested in supporting the answer to the children's question of how to keep the butterflies at the school.

Jim Leiseberg, superintendent at Pelican's Nest, agreed to coordinate and immediately begin to build the butterfly garden in order to accomplish its completion April 22nd in honor of Earth Day 97. Jim contacted landscape architect Dave Salko of the firm WCI, who designed and provided the landscape plans for the 2,000 sq. ft. garden complete with a mulch walk path.

There were 20 different species of ground covers and trees donated and delivered by two local landscape suppliers, as well as 12 hours of their labor to support this school project. Pelican's Nest donated 120 hours of labor. The irrigation system and the perimeter fence were refined, and the garden was coordinated and developed.

Several teachers at Spring Creek used the appearance of the garden as an opportunity to

enhance the learning process at school as they acclimated their curriculum to the butterfly garden.

It was overheard at many a bus stop, discussions about the elaborate process of how butterflies evolve, as well as debating the times involved for what stages of metamorphosis. Teachers encouraged participation in the associated contests involving butterflies, and over 500 student entries were received for naming the garden.

Students sold T-shirts to raise money to help fund the garden at the school and also competed in poetry, poster and T-shirt design contests. For three days, more than 300 students from pre-K to fifth grade were plucked out of class to work with Jim and several other Pelican's Nest staff to help prepare the soil and plant the nectar and host plants for the butterflies.

Teachers had to be on their toes scheduling student help, and monitors were kept busy attempting to inhibit sneaking back into the garden to work during afternoon exercise and outside time to avoid over stimulation of the plants.

Some students couldn't work in the garden enough. It was evident that participation in the garden's completion was very important to Spring Creek Elementary students.

A few butterflies had already swooped down to check out the garden by the time the students gathered to dedicate and name Butterfly Extreme on Earth Day as projected. The butterfly poems were read, the contest winners were cheered, T-shirts were awarded to merit their talents, and the butterfly garden awaits the children each morning as they get off the bus to go into school.

Not only is the a garden successful learning resource and daily reminder of their part in its beauty but it will provide acknowledgment to students who are privileged to read in the butterfly garden as a reward for academic achievement.

Last year Jim Leiseberg and the golf course maintenance staff appropriated money collected from can recycling to provide Spring Creek with three *Field Guides to Birds* and materials to build a bird feeder and supply seed throughout the year.

Jim foresees a continued participation

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in conjunction with the school and its association with The Cooperative Sanctuary program.

On June 27, 1997 I received a phone call from Pam about the goings on at Butterfly Extreme. The host plants had successfully nourished the eggs and larva, and provided shelter for the pre-emerged butterflies. The timing was impeccable.

School ended for the year on June 12, and the butterflies emerged between June 5 and June 10 as though they were a gift to the children.

Pam was checking the garden, although she has the summer off, and couldn't resist calling me today to tell of the caterpillars again on the host plants. The Queen and Monarch butterflies had returned to lay their eggs and the cycle is repeating.

Butterfly Extreme has established itself as a butterfly garden. The children will be pleased and they will most likely have an increased interest in and appreciation for the butterflies upon their return to school in the fall. 

Certification Update

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses

The certification process for golf courses has been updated to lessen the turnaround time for reports. These changes will better define the program and encourage more participation.

1. The Resource Inventory and Environmental Plan have been combined.
2. There have been questions added to the certification workbook, and some questions have been reworded for clarification.
3. Minimum requirements have been established for all categories, and checklists are provided to ensure your request is complete.

These changes were effective June 25, 1997. If you have not received this information, call Audubon International, (518) 767-9051 to request the updated forms.

- Remember, when you join the program, you will receive the Resource Inventory/Environmental Plan. You will not receive the certification workbook until you have returned the Resource Inventory/Environmental Plan.



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