



Legacy Sponsors Audubon Program at Elementary School

Soon after the Legacy Club and Taylor Woodrow community at Alaqu Lakes in Longwood became an Audubon Signature Sanctuary, they adopted Heathrow Elementary School as a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools.

The relationship took root under superintendent Adam Feltman, who recently moved to the Laurel Oaks G. C. in Sarasota.

New Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack works with Heathrow Elementary's Environmental Club coordinator Susan Halkides to provide students with opportunities to reach out and touch nature with hands-on activities.

Kopack says, "I really get a kick out of working with these kids. I've been very fortunate to work with nature and the outdoors, but I think a lot of kids now days are too sheltered or too busy to notice the world around them. The Audubon program for schools gives them a chance to learn that man can work in harmony with nature."

Last March Kopack cranked up his sod cutter and cut out a garden plot in the shape of a butterfly. Several of his crew helped haul in some soil mix and mulch, and then they stood back and let the kids landscape the garden with plants and homemade stepping stones.

"We let the kids do everything except the real heavy work, and they loved planting lantana, purple fountain grass and marigolds among other varieties and arranging the stepping stone borders," he said.

More recently, Kopack helped the students lay out a flower and vegetable garden using some leftover concrete blocks from another school building project. The garden consists of several 5-by-6-foot raised beds with the concrete blocks on edge and filled with dirt.

"You ought to see these plots now," Kopeck says. "They've got corn, squash, beans, tomatoes and flowers coming up all over." Students are taught how to scout and monitor the gardens for pest removal since no chemicals are allowed to be used in the ACSP program for schools.

Several superintendents around the state give regular golf course tours to students and have made a commitment to the Audubon program for schools. Each year the Treasure Coast Chapter holds The Blue Pearl tournament to raise money to fund programs for Stuart County schools. Thanks to John Kopack and others for shining a positive light on golf course superintendents. Won't you think about asking your club to sponsor a local school in the Audubon Sanctuary program? It's a great way to show the public that we are not the "bad guys" so often depicted in the media.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS



Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack used plastic plant pots as molds to pour stepping stones for the Heathrow Elementary School's garden areas. Kopack (standing) looks on as students decorate the stones with sea shells and small stones.

Audubon List Grows

Congratulations to Florida's
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
Golf Courses

The list continues to grow

New Members

Eglin AFB – Eagle Course, Niceville

Eglin AFB – Falcon Course,
Niceville

Golden Bear at Hammock Creek,
Palm City

Gulf Harbour G&CC, Fort Myers

Hammock Dunes Club, Palm

Coast

IGM – Lexington Oaks, Wesley
Chapel

Kingsway CC, Lake Suzy

La Cita CC, Titusville

Polo Park East, Davenport

The Moorings Club, Vero Beach

Waterlefe G&RC, Bradenton

Wildcat Run C.C., Estero

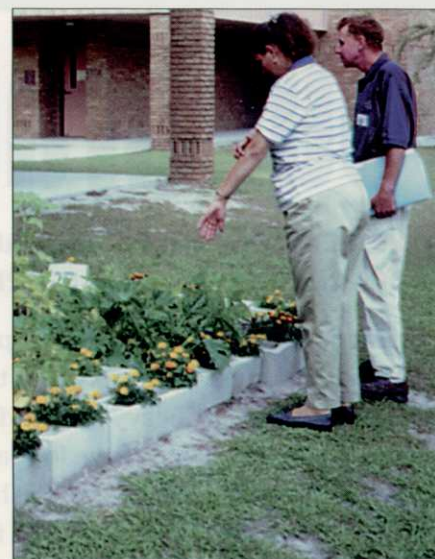
Newly Certified

Amelia Island Plantation, Fernandina
Beach

Harbour Ridge Y&CC, Palm City

IGM – Brooksville G&CC, Brooksville

Royal Poinciana GC, Naples



J1-P2: Heathrow Elementary teacher Susan Halkides and Legacy Club superintendent John Kopack inspect the school's flower and vegetable garden made of raised concrete blocks. No synthetic pesticides are used to control pests in the ASCP school program. Scouting, monitoring and plants like marigolds are used to discourage pests.