

## ACSP NEW MEMBERS:

- Chulta Vista/Mira Mesa, Lady Lake Club at Eaglebrook, Lakeland
- De Le Vista, Lady Lake
- El Diablo/El Santiago, Lady Lake Glenview, Oxford
- Hacienda Hills, Lady Lake
- Hawks Bay/Saddlebrook, Lady Lake
- Highlands Reserve Golf Club, Davenport
- Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina, Stuart
- IGM – Champions Gate, Davenport
- IGM – Deltura Country Club, Ft Myers
- IGM – Fiddlers Green Golf Club @ Cecil Field, Jacksonville
- IGM – Indigo Lakes Country Club, Daytona Beach
- IGM – Mystic Dunes, Kissimmee
- IGM – Pebble Creek, Tampa
- IGM – Sabal Point, Longwood
- IGM – Scenic Hills Country Club, Pensacola
- Queens Harbour Country Club, Jacksonville
- Rockledge Country Club, Rockledge
- St. Lucie West Country Club, Port St. Lucie
- Tiera Del Sol, Lady Lake

### New ACSP Fully Certified Courses:

- Golf Club of Jacksonville, Jacksonville
- Grand Harbor, Vero Beach
- High Ridge Country Club, Boynton Beach
- Regatta Bay, Destin
- Tiburon Golf Club, Naples
- Wyndemere Country Club, Naples

## STEWARDSHIP NOTES

by Shelly Foy

Ah fall... What a relief to know that you are just around the corner. I look forward to opening my house up and having pleasant nighttime temperatures, college football games to watch (GO DOGS), and those delightful breezes. It's no wonder half the world wants to live in Florida during the fall and winter.

I read an interesting article recently on environmental education and its importance in the development of children. Ken Voorhis, director of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute, reports that several studies have recently been published on the benefits of teaching environmental education in schools.

### Those benefits:

- Better performance on standardized measures of academic achievement in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.
- Reduced discipline and classroom management problems.
- Increased engagement and enthusiasm for learning.
- Greater pride and ownership in accomplishments.

Voorhis says, "It seems obvious to many of us that environmental education is not only effective but also critically essential. People can only make informed decisions about the world in which they live if they are environmentally literate.

People also need to feel connected to nature, not separate from it."

Although this article was about environmental education in schools, I think adults can benefit as well. Let's look

at the above listed benefits for children and put them into context for our golfers:

- Better performance on tests could equate to golfers being more knowledgeable and tolerant of golf course maintenance practices and programs.
- Reduced discipline problems could mean less golfer grumbling.
- Increased enthusiasm for learning could mean more golfers getting involved in projects and programs.
- Greater pride and ownership — stands on its own.

The fall and winter is an excellent time of year to work on outreach and education projects with your members and golfers. So, I encourage everyone to take a little time this season to work on environmental education. The most successful golf course superintendents I have ever met are those who make communication with their golfers and members their top priority. The least successful are those who turn and go the other way to avoid running into a member when they might have to actually speak to them.

### The Benefits of Reaching Out

Communicating with golfers and the public about your environmental efforts can help you:

- Gain recognition and support for your management efforts.
- Increase golfer understanding of wildlife and environmental quality on the golf course.

Let the public know that environmentally managed golf courses can be valuable community resources — whether

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or not the public ever gets to step on the course.

Audubon International recommends that the first step is to form that all-important Resource Advisory Committee made up of fellow employees, golfers, and even people outside the golf course who can provide technical expertise. Your Resource Advisory Committee's primary role is to aid you in communicating a commitment to environmental stewardship and implementing conservation activities.

There are many ways to let people know about your commitment to conservation. Education projects can inform people about your efforts or teach people how they can support environmental practices.

Try some of the following ideas this year. For more specific information on how to implement these ideas, call Audubon International at (518) 767-9051.

- Create a display to promote the positive efforts you have undertaken to maintain environmental quality at your course. (Artwork, pictures, newsletters, wildlife inventories, etc.. are all things that can be used in your display).
- Write articles for your club newsletter.
- Mount signs (like "Natural Area," "Environmentally Sensitive Area – Please Keep Out," "Shoreline Naturalization," "Critical Nesting Habitat," etc.).
- Write a press release announcing your environmental plans or projects (Audubon International has detailed information on writing press

releases).

- Work proactively with neighbors (adjoining properties, homeowners associations, etc.) by sharing information on your environmental projects, offering to help them with projects, or inviting them to participate in projects on your golf course.
- Request help with building and monitoring a nestbox program.
- Create a garden for wildlife.
- Let members/golfers help you inventory wildlife.
- Create a nature guide.
- Host nature walks.
- Lead a golf course tour.
- Use tournaments to showcase environmental aspects of the course.
- Teach good stewardship to golfers (jr. golf clinics, etc.).
- Offer a workshop like tree and shrub care, IPM, etc..
- Encourage neighborly stewardship.
- Host kids projects.
- Sponsor a school in the ACSF for Schools.

### TCGCSA Sponsors Indian River Lagoon Envirothon

My pals with the Treasure Coast GCSA had a good time sponsoring the Indian River Lagoon Envirothon in March. They donated \$5,000 to this annual event established as a competitive, problem-solving, natural resource event for high school students to challenge them about the environment.

High school students in Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Indian River

counties used critical thinking skills and worked as a team to develop and design a proposal to implement the best environmental management practices for a specific demonstration site of their choice in their county.

Students were trained and tested in five natural resource areas: soil, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and non-point source pollution.

The Envirothon began in Pennsylvania in 1979 and today, at least 46 states, Canada and Australia have initiated the program. In competing in the Envirothon, not only do students learn about their state's natural resources, problems and solutions, but they also learn about team building, communication, and conservation partnerships. They also indirectly experience natural resource and conservation careers, and most importantly will become more environmentally aware citizens in the future.

Greg Phenegar, John's Island Club, was a judge for this year's event. Greg was very impressed with the Envirothon and said, "it was a great learning experience for the students and I was impressed with their comments and the questions they asked."



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