

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

A Little Effort Goes a Long Way

By Shelly Foy

Hillary Clinton’s “It takes a Village” is certainly true about raising children. However, sometimes all it takes is one person becoming motivated to teach children that leads to the “village” concept.

One such person is golf course superintendent Larry Livingston, CGCS, at Camp Creek Golf Club in Panama City Beach. Camp Creek Golf Club recently received full certification in the ACSP for Golf Courses. As part of the course’s Outreach and Education segment, Larry and his staff elected to get involved with a local charter school, Seaside Neighborhood School.

Seaside has a mentoring program for grades 6, 7 and 8 that is designed to expose students to many different career choices. Some of the careers that students have explored so far are radio broadcasting, watercolor painting, sewing,



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babysitting, culinary arts, web page design, video editing, architecture, photography, art, drama, youth leadership, glass painting, interior design, and — of course — golf course, turf and environmental management.

According to Seaside ESE and Technology teacher Cathy

Brubaker, “Our goals through the community-mentoring program are to give students the opportunity to be exposed to career possibilities and to build relationships with professionals in their community. Too often students are not exposed to career choices until they have to make a decision about a major field of study in college or training in a technical field. Here at Seaside Neighborhood School we want to try to expose students to choices at an earlier age so that when it comes time for them to decide, they will have a broader base of information on which to base their choices”.

Larry wanted to participate in the mentoring program and decided to tie in his participation in the ACSP. His description of the proposed mentoring program at Camp Creek:

Students will learn about:

- what is involved in maintaining a championship golf course. From mowing the turf to designing fertilization schedules, to irrigation management... students will find out what it is like on the inside. Learning how to protect the environ-



Larry Livingston, CGCS gives students from Seaside Neighborhood School a tour of his golf course as part of a career mentoring program.

- ment is our number-one priority.
- soil nutrition. Take soil samples, review the lab results, and plan a soil nutritional program.
- irrigation management. Get hands-on experience on how we use a computer for irrigation scheduling and management. Learn where the irrigation water comes from and how the pump stations pumps it through the pipes and onto the turf.
- using bats for mosquito control. Build and install bat houses to be used in a study on biological mosquito control.
- water quality. Collect water samples from lakes, review the results and determine what steps need to be taken to address any issues found. Help release plant-eating fish for biological aquatic weed control. Learn about the stormwater management system and how it functions. Learn what part wetlands play in the big picture.

In addition to all of that, students also discussed the IPM program and did soap flushes for insects and looked for diseases in the turf. After taking lake samples, they reviewed the results and released bluegill, catfish, gambusia and grass-eating carp into the lakes. They identified

native plant material on the golf course and installed identification signs next to them. Other environmental signs were also installed by students. They also designed and planted a butterfly garden near the golf shop.

Larry and his staff hosted 12 students last fall and six students this spring. Students were on-site at Camp Creek once every other week for three months each semester. Larry is very excited about Camp Creek’s involvement with the Seaside Neighborhood School. He has also encouraged the school to participate in the ACSP for Schools. He had previously attempted to get involved with a local school in Tampa and found it difficult; the school seemed to want to rely more on Larry and the golf course to do all the work. At Seaside, the enthusiasm for the ACSP is high and Larry is so optimistic that he is considering “adopting” another local school, Butler Elementary School.

It just goes to show you that with enthusiasm and a little determination, one person can set great things in motion. Here’s to you, Larry Livingston and Camp Creek Golf Club, I wish there were more people out there like you!

ACSP Update

These Florida courses have earned Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status:

- **Venice Golf & Country Club**, Venice - Jim Schell, General Manager
- **Camp Creek Golf Club**, Panama City Beach - Larry Livingston, CGCS

There are currently 2,455 properties registered in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs for existing facilities; 2,108 are golf courses registered in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses; and 481 golf courses, 32 businesses, 4 cemeteries, and 10 schools are designated as Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.