



*Seaside Elementary School students tour the Camp Creek G.C. in a more ambitious outreach program . Photo courtesy of the USGA.*

## Never Underestimate the Importance of Positive Messages About Golf and the Environment

*by: Shelly Foy*

What a terrible story emerged recently about a PGA Tour player who hit golf balls at a red-shouldered hawk whose screeching was disrupting a video taping session back in December of 2007. He ended up killing the federally protected bird whether by accident or on purpose; we'll never really know. What I do know is that this kind of stupid incident will have a negative impact for golf.

This is just one more reason, in the many that we have given over the years, why it is important to let people know that the golf industry as a whole cares about environmental stewardship. Superintendents and golfers in general enjoy and appreciate the wildlife they see on the golf course. We need to keep demonstrating and documenting golf's overwhelming positive impact on the environment.

The photo essay in this issue shows examples of outreach and education projects happening on golf courses around the country. A lot of you stumble over this particular section of the ACSP for Golf Courses and I receive a lot of calls asking, "What can we do"? In upcoming issues of this magazine, I will continue to highlight simple, yet effective ways of reaching out to others about golf's positive influence on the environment.

*A simple poster attached to a water cooler at the Eglin AFB Golf Course, right, tells the story. Photo courtesy USGA.*



*A photo album in the TPC Tampa Bay clubhouse reaches not only golfers but diners and other visitors. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

## Certified Florida Members of the Audubon Sanctuary Programs

We'd like to recognize the following Florida golf courses that have taken the proactive initiative to enroll and become certified in one of the several Audubon International Sanctuary Programs. New developments and courses that plan and design their projects with the assistance of AI can belong to the Signature Series.

Existing golf courses can join the Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Beyond this impressive list are a number of courses who have joined the program but have not yet reached full certification. Members of the AI staff also helped to write our Golf Course BMP Manual which was also drafted and published with the help

of the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and other agencies and the University of Florida IFAS faculty.

There is a list of official Audubon Stewards also in this section. They can be a resource to help you join and get certified in this worthwhile program which will help preserve our environment and save money for your operation. And I would venture a guess that if you know the superintendent at one of these courses, they would also be willing to help you with the program.

### **GOLD SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES**

The Old Collier Club, Naples

WCI Golf Courses:

- Evergrene, Palm Beach Gardens
- Hammock Bay G&CC, Marco
- Old Palm, Palm Beach Gardens
- Pelican Preserve, Ft. Myers
- Raptor Bay, Bonita Springs
- Tuscany Reserve, Naples
- Venetian G&RC, Venice

### **SILVER SIGNATURE SANCTUARIES**

- The Club at Mediterra, Naples
- Eagle Ridge, Summerfield
- Masters and Memorial
- Old Corkscrew, Estero
- St. James Bay, Carrabelle
- Shark's Tooth, Panama City
- The Aerie, Naples
- Villages of Marion (*The Villages*)
- Nancy Lopez Legacy CC
- Amberwood Nine
- Briarwood Nine
- Oakleigh Nine
- Walnut Grove Nine
- Villages of Sumter Phase I (*The Villages*)
- Belevedere Course (Churchill Downs & Pimlico)
- Sunset Pointe (Heron & Pelican)
- Palmer Legends GC (Cherry Hill, Laurel Valley & Riley Grove)
- Villages of Sumter Phase II (*The Villages*)
- Cane Garden & Sunset Point
- Villages of Sumter Phase III (*The Villages*)
- Key Largo (Bogart & Bacall)
- WCI – Lost Key GC, Perdido Key

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The Talon at Twin Eagles, Naples  
Collier's Reserve, Naples  
Indian River CC, Vero Beach

**COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS**

Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island  
Arlington Ridge Golf Club, Leesburg  
Bent Creek Golf Course, Jacksonville (fka  
Golf Club of Jacksonville)  
Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs  
Bay Island Course  
Creekside Course  
Marsh Course  
Bonita Bay Community Association,  
Bonita Springs  
The Brooks, Bonita Springs  
Camp Creek Golf Club, Palm City Beach  
Card Sound Golf Club, Key Largo  
Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club, Clearwater  
Copperleaf Golf Club, Bonita Spring  
Country Club of Florida, Village of Golf  
Country Club of Naples, Naples  
Crandon Golf at Key Biscayne, Key

Biscayne  
Crown Colony Golf & Country Club, Fort  
Myers  
Eglin Golf Club, Niceville  
Floridian, Stuart  
FoxFire Golf and Country Club, Naples  
Frenchman's Reserve, Palm Beach  
Gardens  
Gainesville Country Club, Gainesville  
Golf Club of Jacksonville, Jacksonville  
Grand Harbor Club, Vero Beach  
Grande Pines Golf Club, Orlando  
Griffin Industries, Inc. – Hampton Plant,  
Hampton  
Griffin Industries, Inc. – Orlando Plant,  
Orlando  
Griffin Industries, Inc. – Tampa Plant,  
Tampa  
Hammock Dunes Club, Palm Coast  
Creek Course  
Links Course  
Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club, Palm  
City  
Hawk's Nest Golf Club, Vero Beach  
Heron Bay Golf Club, Coral Springs

High Ridge Golf Course, Lantana  
Hobe Sound Elementary School, Hobe  
Sound  
Hole-in-the-Wall Golf Club, Naples  
IGM Courses  
Aquarina Country Club, Melbourne  
Beach  
Arrowhead Golf Course, Naples  
Brooksville Golf & Country Club,  
Brooksville  
The Habitat Golf Course, Malabar  
Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club,  
Port Charlotte  
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach  
Spessard Holland Golf Club, Melbourne  
Beach  
The Savannahs, Merritt Island  
Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park  
Ironwood Municipal Golf Course,  
Gainesville  
John's Island Club – West Course, Vero  
Beach  
Lake Buena Vista Club, Lake Buena Vista  
Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club,  
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**CERTIFIED AUDUBON COOPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMS (CONT.)**

Laurel Oak Elementary School, Naples  
 Lemon Bay Golf Club, Englewood  
 The Links at Boynton Beach, Boynton Beach

Loblolly Pines Golf Club, Hobe Sound  
 Long Marsh Golf Course, Englewood  
 Magnolia Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
 Mariposa Elementary School, Port St. Lucie

Mizner Country Club, Delray Beach  
 The Moorings Country Club, Naples  
 Naples Lakes Country Club, Naples  
 Old Marsh Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens  
 Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples  
 Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, Orchid  
 Osprey Ridge Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista

Out Door Resort Orlando, Orlando  
 Palencia Golf Club, St. Augustine  
 Palm Golf Course, Lake Buena Vista  
 Pelican Marsh Golf Club, Naples  
 Pelican's Nest Golf Club, Bonita Springs



Pelican Sound Golf & River Club, Estero  
 Plantation Preserve Golf Course & Club, Plantation  
 Quail Ridge Country Club, Boynton Beach  
 Regatta Bay Golf and Country Club, Destin  
 Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples  
 The Sanctuary Golf Club, Sanibel Island  
 Shadow Wood Country Club, Bonita Springs  
 Shadow Wood Preserve Country Club, Fort Myers  
 Sterling Oaks, Naples  
 Stonebridge Country Club, Naples  
 Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club, Tampa

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club & Spa - Jupiter,  
 Tiburón Golf Club, Naples  
 TPC Courses  
 Eagle Trace, Coral Springs  
 Prestancia, Sarasota  
 Sawgrass, Ponte Verde Beach  
 Tampa Bay, Lutz  
 The Townsend Property, Jacksonville  
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# Wasp + Weed – Cricket = Good Grass

By Joel Jackson

Research by Dr. H. J. Frank and Andrei Sourakov at the University of Florida and an article by Dan Culbert, Okeechobee County Extension Agent, has given us an opportunity to combine mole-cricket control and water conservation.

Dr. Frank has been researching various biocontrol agents from parasitic nematodes, red-eyed flies and the Larra bicolor “digger wasp.” Each has had its successes and setbacks. The wasp seems to be able to spread and set up new populations. Success, of course, depends on a reliable food source.

It seems that a wildflower known as the false shrubby buttonweed, *Spermacoce verticillata*, may give the wasp a year-round nectar source. Since concerns over water conservation have suggested converting out-of-play areas unirrigated, Florida-friendly native vegetation, perhaps planting native areas with this plant could create a real win-win situation.

The Larra wasp has been sighted in 41 counties so far. How about giving the little buggers a helping hand by planting this nectar source on your course?

Some have suggested a name change to Southern Larraflower for the wasp’s



*Larra wasp on Larraflower. Photo by Dr. Lyle Buss.*

preference for its size and its shape ideally fits the wasp’s feeding habits. By the way the male does most of the nectar feeding while the female is searching for mole crickets.

Southern Larraflower planting stock can be found at:

Lake Brantley Nursery, (407) 496-0771 in Center Hill and

Lake Brantley Plant Corporation (407-869-6545) in Longwood.



PHOTO BY SALLY SCALERA.

## Florida Audubon International Stewards

*As I said in my President’s Message in the front of the magazine, the time for accountable documented environmental stewardship is upon us. Just consider the state and local fertilizer ordinances that are coming forward and general concern over state and local water quality issues. Please contact any of these*

*towards who are ready and willing to help you with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This is a recognized and respected program that will help you and your golf course secure a successful future.*

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