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Fiddler's Creek hosts the Conservancy of SW Florida

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Abundant wildlife is one of the reasons why residents enjoy living at Fiddler's Creek. These roseate spoonbills were recently spotted at the Marsh Pointe Nature Park at Fiddler's creek.

In honor of an important event that literally changed the landscape of Collier County, Fiddler's Creek hosted the annual Board of Directors Retreat of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

The Conservancy was a key player in the Deltona Corp. settlement with federal and state agencies in 1981. Under the agreement, Deltona relinquished its development rights to 15,000 acres of pristine mangrove wetlands south of Naples and surrounding Marco Island. In return, the company was provided the right to concentrate density in less environmentally sensitive areas.

One such area was the beginning of the now nearly 4,000 acres known as Fiddler's Creek, a private, master-planned residential community offering complete resort lifestyle amenities.

"Construction began at Fiddler's Creek in 1995 and with it the desire to restore some of the damage done by decades of misuse that occurred through the diversion of historic water

flows when U.S. 41 was created," said Aubrey J. Ferrao, president and CEO of Fiddler's Creek LLC.

Ferrao added that the developers of Fiddler's Creek worked with local agencies to restore the natural and historic water flows back into those wetland areas, giving new life to the preserves and more natural habitat to the rich wildlife that call this area home. "Wildlife is in abundance at Fiddler's Creek and is one of the reasons why residents truly love this community," he said.

In opening remarks prior to the annual Board of Directors Retreat, Conservancy of Southwest Florida Board Chairman Dolph von Arx recognized the ongoing relationship with Fiddler's Creek and how the developer is establishing a residential community where man and nature can co-exist, embracing the natural beauty of this sanctuary and protecting the environment.

"Fiddler's Creek LLC has been a valued partner in the effort to conserve Southwest Florida's

rare and threatened environment," von Arx said. "Their Fiddler's Creek development is an example of their thoughtful planning in which development retains important ecological features. I appreciate their effort to help protect our quality of life."

Committed to preserving the environment, Fiddler's Creek is being planned to accommodate and enhance the natural beauty of Florida's environment. Less than one-third of the land at Fiddler's Creek will be developed for residential use, while the remainder is dedicated primarily to nature reserves, lakes, parks, golf courses and recreational areas.

The community comprises approximately 4,000 acres and is zoned for 6,000 residences. With 1,700 residences completed, Fiddler's Creek has approximately 4,300 residences yet to be built. With a very low density level of 1.6 homes per gross acre, the community will be comprised of 100 distinct neighborhoods upon completion.

Amenities offered at Fiddler's Creek include a 54,000-square-foot Club & Spa, fitness center, resort style multi-pool swimming complex, tennis courts, restaurants and the opportunity to join the Golf Club ranked in Golfweek's 100 Best Residential Golf Courses in the country for the seventh consecutive year and the Tarpon Club offering Fiddler's Creek homeowners the opportunity to enjoy a beach and boating lifestyle so precious to those who live in the area.

Fiddler's Creek is just off Collier Boulevard on the way to Marco Island. For more information on the community, the Golf Club and the Tarpon Club, call 732-9300 or stop by the sales center at 8152 Fiddler's Creek Parkway or visit <http://www.fiddlerscreek.com>.