

Nature in Action! - 2[©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida

Like many of my neighbors residing in the Kissimmee Bay Country Club (KBCC) subdivision, every day I am treated to some of nature's true spectacles! From my patio vantage point looking out onto the KBCC 11th fairway, I am constantly amazed by the ever-changing presentations of what nature has to offer to keep things in check. The following describes yet another observation of mine, as seen on April 22, 2018.

While gazing out at the 11th fairway, I saw a softshell turtle emerge from a nearby pond and amble up the side of a golf course berm adjacent to my patio. I observed the turtle for about 15 minutes. In very short order, the turtle began digging, as noted by plumes of earth and sand it continued to "kick out". It became apparent to me that the turtle was building a nest for the deposit of its eggs. After completing his mission, the turtle returned to the pond and disappeared from sight.



Turtle Making Nest – Photo by Dan

Unfortunately, almost immediately after this turtle was out of sight, all of its work was negated! Fish Crows had spotted the nest and within minutes "swooped down" and removed and ate all of the turtle's eggs!



Fish Crow - Photo from a web site

Given the number of ponds within our subdivision, undoubtedly many other turtles have also built nests and deposited their eggs in numerous areas. After all, "Spring Has Sprung"! Probably the whole scenario as I have described here will be repeated over and over again. And so it is; nature and its "checks and balances" in action!