

Aquaculture Studies Prepare Students For Better Understanding

(Continued from Page B20)

The operations at the high school are crude, by technological standards, but they work to show that there is unseen potential in objects.

All of these projects speak to what Martin is trying to convey to his charges — that they can do work that brings more than one reward, that they can enjoy the work, and that they can do things with what they have in their minds, not just with what is given to them by others.

Martin is also trying to teach the students how to think things through full circle.

While certain studies help the development of three-dimensional understanding, such as industrial arts, Martin tries to expand that type of understanding to systems.

A real world example of the difference in approach would be with a given a task to develop a residential development for people.

Current practice is to meet legal

requirements and move on.

Given the same task using a systematic approach, human needs would be addressed to ensure a healthy environment for the proper growth and development of residents.

The difference is that under the current approach, no real consideration is given that children in a residential development have a safe place to play, to exercise, to interact, or explore, because it isn't required, and because it doesn't easily increase net margin.

The only way these considerations are addressed is once the development is occupied, and then only if special efforts are made by community leaders.

Even for those relatively few considerations which are required, the threat of cashing in a developer's bond is necessary to ensure that minimum standards have been met.

Using a systematic approach to residential development, water

and sewage, recreation, food availability, emergency planning, storm water runoff, utility supplies, even environmental health considerations, such as contaminated streams, broken glass, etc., would be considered and addressed.

The difference is that, by using a working system approach, large subdivisions wouldn't be constructed on limestone watersheds without adequate measures being taken to eliminate or minimize the creation of sinkholes.

The difference is that home designs and placement wouldn't be generically applied to highlands and floodplains, regardless of the wind, the weather, and the facing of the sun.

For Martin's agricultural students, most of whom are not being raised on farms, there is a better chance that they may understand the need to develop a complete production system for almost any plant or animal.

With the use of tools — knowledge, clamps, measuring devices, etc. — these youth are getting an opportunity to understand something of the extent of their own potential to create.

"I love the class," said Chris Willenbecher, 17, son of Mark and Wendy Willenbecher. "Mr. Martin is a great teacher, he cares about the students and he knows his subjects, and if a student needs something, he'll go out and buy it."

Martin said he does spend out of his own pocket to keep the facilities going. In fact, he buys the fish, the crayfish and all the other stock. He said he has about \$5,000 of his own money invested in the two facilities.

But he said he enjoys the classes because he is learning too, he said.

For example, the school is the only one in the state with a permit to raise a strain of rainbow trout called the Donaldson Steelhead-Salmon.

Martin paid for the fish — 75 cents per fingerling. He also applied for the permits to raise them in Pennsylvania, just as he

had to do to get permission to make the small pond on the school property, just as he had to do in order to get approval to raise Tilapia at the school.

He said having the Donaldson steelhead in the aquaculture facility is exciting for him as well. They are supposed to be more tolerant of higher water temperatures than normal rainbow trout, and reportedly have a fast rate of gain.

This strain of fish may well be a commercial fish of importance in the future of his students and they will have a leg up on anyone else.

Martin said he wants to see youth interested in agriculture, but more so than merely trying to fill the requirements of an existing job description.

He is trying to support and encourage youth who will be able to make jobs for themselves and others.

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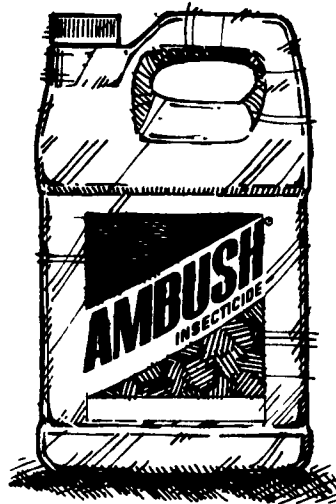
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