

A scenic view of a golf course. In the background, a large, light-colored clubhouse with a dark roof and several chimneys sits on a grassy hill. To the left, another building is partially visible. The middle ground features a wide, green fairway with a sand trap and a small structure. A large, winding pond with reeds and tall grasses occupies the foreground and middle ground. The sky is clear and blue.

THE *ford* PLANTATION

CIRCA 1734  
FALL 2010

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the best time of year! Summer is winding down, and there is a hint of fall in the air. The leaves are beginning to change, and we look forward to coming home to The Ford Plantation. Although summers seem to be getting increasingly shorter, we are able to prolong the feeling well into December by returning to the warmth and camaraderie we all enjoy here at Ford.

I would like to take a moment to mention a few of the people who make life here so unique and enjoyable. While I could list each and every one of our staff members who create the atmosphere of family we prize so much, I would like to mention three individuals who, because of the nature of their respective departments, are usually not in front of our collective view.

First, [Nelson Caron](#), our Golf Superintendent, has worked tirelessly to keep our great Pete Dye course as playable as possible under the most adverse conditions. This summer has been the warmest on record, and the extreme weather has wreaked havoc with many of the local courses, as well as many throughout the country. Nelson and his crew have risen to the task, and with enormous effort and skill, have been able to maintain the course at a high level throughout this grueling time. We can't thank him enough.

Secondly, I would like to recognize [Chris Howard](#), our Director of Facilities, Grounds, and Lodging. That same heat wave has also

affected the rest of the Plantation, and Chris and the grounds crews have done a remarkable job in keeping the visual beauty of the Plantation up to the usual high standard we all have come to expect and enjoy. At the same time, Chris also has kept up with the maintenance of all of the Club's facilities and overseen the replacement of the windows in the Clubhouse. These are enormous jobs that largely go unseen by most of us, but are certainly most appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge [Matt Gaskin](#), our Director of Security. I don't think there is anyone we could have who is more concerned or more qualified in providing us with our safety and protection. The wonderful feeling we all get when we arrive at Ford and pass through the gates starts at the gate house with the courteous, proficient, and welcoming staff trained by Matt.

All of our staff continues to do their respective jobs at the highest level, and we certainly appreciate it.



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## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

We are pleased to present you with this latest issue of The Ford Plantation's *Circa 1734*. As the start of the exciting fall season approaches, with Homecoming Weekend right around the corner and the holiday season beckoning shortly thereafter, this annual magazine has been assembled to highlight many of the wonderful activities and events that Ford offers throughout the year. It also highlights the history and culture of this special area of Georgia known as the Low Country.



As I draft this note, several important infrastructure projects are nearing completion just in time to welcome many of you back in October. For those who enter or exit the Plantation through the main entrance, you will be greeted with smooth, freshly-paved road surfaces on Ford Way and restored swing gates that are fully operational during the evening hours and on

weekends. These improvements have really spruced up the main entrance and leave a positive and lasting impression as folks enter and depart from TFP.

There are also noticeable improvements in and around The Clubhouse, with an extended special events lawn behind the building and new cart paths, cart parking, and traffic patterns in front of the building and around the Golf Shop. Our enhanced Ford Market, located on the first floor of The Clubhouse, features a fully-stocked "Grab and Go" refrigerator featuring cold soft drinks, freshly-prepared sandwiches, candy, chips, and packaged snacks. We hope you enjoy these improvements.

We've enjoyed the opportunity to serve you and your guests here at Ford over the summer months, and it was great to see so many folks back for our Labor Day Weekend celebration. As the fall season gets into full swing in the coming weeks, please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your club experiences even more enjoyable. We're here for you!

On behalf of your dedicated staff here at The Ford Plantation, I thank you for your loyal and continued support of the Club. Please enjoy this edition of *Circa 1734* and come see us very soon.

Best regards,

Bob Gusella  
General Manager / Chief Operating Officer

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Being good stewards of the land—and enhancing and preserving it for generations to come—is one of the cornerstones of The Ford Plantation. Our Outdoor Pursuits Department works to make sure the fish supplies in the Plantation's 250 acres of fresh and brackish water lakes is abundant. Read about our latest project involving a flight, fingerlings, and a fish farm.



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In May 2009, Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and General Manager Bob Gusella began to discuss the idea of creating a modest vegetable garden and small farming operation at The Ford Plantation. Read about what has evolved since then.



## 12 THE IRISH ON THE OGEECHEE BY HOWARD KEELEY, PH.D.

In January 2009, Professor Howard Keeley, a Princeton Ph.D. and Director of the Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University, gave an illustrated talk at The Ford Plantation as part of our Round Table Dinner Series. Dr. Keeley discussed the subject of Irish settlement along the Ogeechee River, especially the Eighteenth Century Township called Queensborough. In this article, Dr. Keeley revisits the topic—a highlight of the exciting history of this special part of our country.

## 14 THE *Ford* MARKET

The Ford Market provides members and guests with several food and beverage options on property. Our goal is to supply you with the best products available with little effort on your behalf. See what's in store.



## 15 FUN AT FORD

The Ford Plantation offers members and guests many exciting events throughout the year. See some of the fun that members and guests had this past spring and summer.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## GOLF TOURNAMENTS

October 22–23, 2010.....Golf Club Championship  
October 24, 2010 .....Couples' Golf Series One  
November 4–6, 2010.....Men's Member/Guest  
November 12, 2010 .....Couples' Golf Championship  
January 1, 2011 .....Empty Bottle Open  
January 16, 2011 .....Couples' Golf Series Three  
February 20, 2011 .....Couples' Golf Series Four  
March 11–12, 2011 .....Men's and Ladies' Member/Member  
March 18, 2011 .....The England  
March 20, 2011 .....Couples' Golf Series Five  
March 31–April 2, 2011 .....Men's Invitational  
April 6–8, 2011 .....Ladies' Invitational

## FISHING TOURNAMENTS

September 4, 2010 .....Spanish Mackerel  
October 16, 2010 .....Hunt for Big Red  
October 30, 2010 .....Fish with Friends  
November 13, 2010 .....Great Ogeechee Trout  
February 26, 2011 .....Wing and Clay  
April 29, 2011 .....Hook and Slice  
July 2, 2011 .....Spanish Mackerel  
August 12–13, 2011 .....“Silva Dolla” Tarpon  
September 15, 2011 .....Hunt for Big Red  
November 18, 2011 .....Great Ogeechee Trout

## TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

October 23, 2010 .....Tennis Round Robin  
April 23, 2011 .....Tennis Club Championship

## THE BIG READ

Please join us for our second annual “Big Read,” an opportunity for members to read and discuss a single book in our community. The book is *The Gold Coast* by Nelson DeMille. The session will be led by Dr. David Dudley, Chair of the Literature & Philosophy Department at Georgia Southern University. This book will be discussed during the Round Table Dinner on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

## THE FORD PLANTATION FOUNDATION FUND (TFPFF)

We are pleased to announce the creation of The Ford Plantation Foundation Fund (TFPFF), a donor-directed fund organized under the Savannah Community Foundation, which will allow members to make tax deductible contributions that will then be disbursed to the receiving organizations as directed, under the name of The Ford Plantation. It is our sincere hope that many TFP members will choose to contribute to this worthy cause. Please make checks payable to the “Savannah Community Foundation,” and write “The Ford Plantation” on the memo line. Please mail the checks to 7393 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Savannah, GA 31406. Donors will receive an acknowledgement letter from the Savannah Community Foundation for tax purposes.

## SPEAKER SERIES

New to The Ford Plantation this year, our Speaker Series features dynamic presenters from fascinating backgrounds and professions. We invite members and their guests to join us at The Main House from 5:00–6:30 p.m. for these special engagements, which consist of a talk, followed by a question and answer period. These Speaker Series events are complimentary. We are in the process of adding additional speakers for this series. Please watch the *Weekly Update*, newsletters, and members' only web site for additional events.

Paula Wallace, President of Savannah College of Art and Design  
Friday, February 11, 2011

Anne Prescott Keigher, Benjamin Franklin House Foundation  
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

## BOOK CLUB

The Ford Plantation Book Club meets one Thursday a month at 6:00 p.m. at The Main House. A delicious dinner prepared by Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and his culinary team is served after the book discussion.

October 14, 2010

*The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

November 18, 2010

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Presentation: David Dudley, Ph.D., Chair,  
Literature & Philosophy Department, Georgia  
Southern University

December 16, 2010

*The Anthologist* by Nicholson Baker

January 20, 2011

*Mr. Emerson's Wife* by Amy Belding Brown

February 17, 2011—Mystery Night

*The Little Stranger* by Sarah Waters

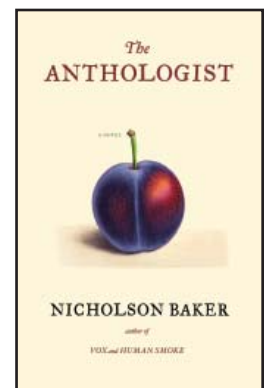
Presentation: Caren Town, Ph.D., Professor,  
Literature & Philosophy Department,  
Georgia Southern University

March 17, 2011—Southern Literary  
Month

*The Floatplane Notebooks* by Clyde Edgerton  
Presentation: Craig Amason, Director,  
Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation

April 14, 2011

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by  
Rebecca Skloot



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## ROUND TABLE DINNERS

This season's Round Table Dinners and Discussions will focus on current affairs and will feature guest speakers from Georgia Southern University. The discussions will cover a variety of issues that are in the news. Discussions are held on Wednesday evenings. They begin at 6:00 p.m. and will continue through dinner. Join us for these lively meetings at The Main House.

October 13, 2010

Michael Smith, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Racial Profiling and the Politics of Immigration

November 10, 2010

Hemchand Gossai, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Literature & Philosophy Department  
The Quest for a Suitable Companion: Male and Female  
in the Book of Genesis

December 8, 2010

Howard Keeley, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Literature & Philosophy Department  
Two "Designing Females": W.B. Yeats' Sisters' Arts-and-Crafts  
Vision for a More Irish Ireland

January 12, 2011

Richard Pacelle, Ph.D.  
Chair, Political Science Department  
The Obama Court: Forty More Years?

February 9, 2011

Mike Nielsen, Ph.D.  
Chair, Psychology Department  
Fundamentalist Mormon Polygamy

March 9, 2011

Krista Wiegand, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Political Science Department  
Rising China: A Threat to the U.S.?

April 13, 2011

David Dudley, Ph.D.  
Chair, Literature & Philosophy Department  
The Big Read: *The Gold Coast* by Nelson DeMille

## CRAFT BEER DINNER

We have hosted numerous wine dinners here at The Ford Plantation, but this is a first: a Craft Beer Dinner, featuring beers from around the world. Join us at 6:00 p.m. as our culinary team creates the perfect beer pairing for the food featured in each course of this five-course meal.

Friday, March 11, 2011

## WILD GAME DINNERS

Building on a tradition started last year, we will feature two Wild Game Dinners this year. These special dinners will feature fish caught in local waters and a variety of wild game dishes prepared by Executive Chef Juan Carlos and his culinary team. Join us at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates to enjoy what is sure to become a special Ford tradition.

- Friday, November 5, 2010
- Saturday, February 26, 2011 (after the Wing & Clay Tournament)

## THEME DINNERS

The Ford Plantation is pleased to offer special "Theme Dinners" on Sunday evenings throughout the year. Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and his talented staff will prepare delicious, bountiful dishes reflecting the theme of the evening. Please plan to join us on the following Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

October 17, 2010 .....Harvest Farm

November 21, 2010 .....Italian

December 26, 2010.....Seafood

February 13, 2011 .....Mexican

March 20, 2011 .....Asian

April 10, 2011 .....Mediterranean

## OYSTER ROASTS

Throughout the season, The Ford Plantation hosts traditional outdoor Oyster Roasts, featuring fresh local oysters and a buffet of traditional Southern fare. The oysters are cooked on site and served hot on our custom-made oyster tables. Plan to join us the following Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (The location will vary.)

- October 22, 2010
- November 26, 2010
- December 17, 2010
- January 21, 2011
- March 18, 2011

## BRIDGE CLUB

The Ford Plantation Bridge Club meets Tuesday evenings at Lake Dye Grill at 5:00 p.m. All members are invited to participate in this duplicate bridge game. If you are a beginner and would like to learn more about the game, you are invited to come by and spend the evening watching and learning. Reservations are not required.



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## GARDEN CLUB

Learn more about gardening and help preserve the natural and historical beauty of The Ford Plantation by becoming a part of the Garden Club. This year the Garden Club will focus on Edsel's Experimental Farm. Working with Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and the kitchen team, we will help maintain the garden, recommend plants and start them from seed, design and build structures for the garden, taste test what we are growing, and raise funds to buy fruit trees. Please meet at the Farm.

- Friday, October 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 17, 2010, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 21, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 18, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 22, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

## GOLF COURSE TOURS

Please join Golf Course Superintendent Nelson Caron for a tour of the golf course. Nelson will provide an overview of the current state of the golf course and explain what it takes to keep the golf course in good shape. He will also show tour participants his golf maintenance building and the equipment used on the course. This is a great opportunity for members to gain an understanding of the golf course and to ask Nelson questions.

- Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

## FORT STEWART VISIT

In preparation for Homecoming weekend, and in support of the soldiers and families of the Third Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, members and staff have been invited to visit Fort Stewart. We will meet base commanders, visit the training ranges, have lunch with the soldiers, observe the “Engagement Skills Trainer” simulator, and visit the Warrior's Walk. This opportunity is open to 40 people and is complimentary.

- Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

## OUTDOOR PURSUITS CLINICS

Outdoor Pursuits Clinics are offered on one Thursday a month at 10:00 a.m. and cover a variety of topics. Typically, the clinics last about 30–45 minutes and provide information about various outdoor pursuits. It's a great way to learn new tips and talk to others about your experiences. Come down to Ogeechee Outfitters, have a hot cup of coffee, and learn more about fishing, hunting, and the great outdoors. These clinics are complimentary.

- November 11, 2010 ..... Navigating the Rice Canals in the Ogeechee River  
December 2, 2010 ..... Fly Casting Introduction  
January 6, 2011 ..... Gun Cleaning 101  
March 10, 2011 ..... Light Tackle Fishing Intro  
April 7, 2011 ..... Intro to Fly Tying

## SPORTING CLAYS FUN SHOOTS

Join other TFP shooting enthusiasts for a monthly fun shoot at Dorchester Hunt Club. Each shoot starts at 10:00 a.m., and the cost is \$40 for 50 clays (includes trapper).

- Thursday, October 14, 2010
- Thursday, November 18, 2010
- Thursday, December 16, 2010
- Thursday, January 27, 2011
- Thursday, March 24, 2011
- Thursday, April 21, 2011

## NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Cumberland Island Exploration

Monday, November 15–Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Nature Center Homecoming Open House

Friday, October 22, 2010, 3:30–5:00 p.m.



Lake Clara Canoe Races

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2010, 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Thursday, March 3, 2011, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Kayak Lake Clara

Sunday, April 3, 2011, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Everglades National Park

Sunday, April 10–Thursday, April 14, 2011

Photo Excursion: Francis Beidler Audubon Preserve

Thursday, April 28, 2011, 7:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Nature Hikes

- Saturday, December 4, 2010, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 8, 2011, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 5, 2011, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 5, 2011, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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## Photo Club Meetings

- Thursday, November 11, 2010, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 9, 2010, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 13, 2011, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 10, 2011, 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10, 2011, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

## Kids' Nature Camps

- Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 27, 2010, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 27, 2010, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

## THE SPA

### Ladies Night Out

- Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

### Spa Homecoming Open House

Friday, October 22, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

### Massage/Aromatherapy Seminar

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

## Bad Hair Day

Thursday, March 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

## Inside Scoop

Friday, April 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

## FITNESS

### Chair Massage

During Select Fishing and Golf Tournaments

### Sports Barn Homecoming Open House

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

### Tennis Round Robin

Saturday, October 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m.; others to be announced

### Turkey Trot—Feeling Great, Feeling Grateful

Wednesday, November 24, 2010, 8:30 a.m.

### Healthy Lifestyle Retreat

Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14, 2011, 8:30 a.m.

### Tennis Club Championship

Saturday, April 23, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

# EVENTS AT THE FORD PLANTATION

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The Ford Plantation is able to host special events for members and guests. From baby showers to elaborate weddings, we are able to accommodate a wide range of events. These photos show how elegant an outside event can be. Ford is a relaxing place to escape from the outside world and a wonderful place to gather with family and friends. For more information on events, please contact Erika Goodman at 912-756-5725 or [egoodman@fordplantation.com](mailto:egoodman@fordplantation.com).



# Historical Markers at

## FORD WAY ENTRANCE I

Organized human settlement along the shores of the Ogeechee River dates back to the prehistoric era, when members of the Este Muskokee and Yamacraw tribes began growing crops and hunting wildlife along the lush Southern coast. By the early 16th century, European settlers from Spain and France began to establish a presence in the region, but the English soon challenged their positions. On June 9, 1732, the English campaign for regional dominance came to a climax when the Crown of England granted a charter to a group of trustees led by General James Oglethorpe to found the new Colony of Georgia. Within a year the first band of English settlers arrived at what is now the seaport of Savannah, where they laid out Oglethorpe's brilliant scheme for a system of streets and squares that define the city's plan to this day.

## FORD WAY ENTRANCE II

It was not long before the earliest English colonists began branching outward to the surrounding regions. In 1734, John Harn was granted an estate along the Ogeechee River where two centuries later automobile tycoon Henry Ford would build his Southern coastal residence. Harn named his holdings Dublin Plantation, and soon began developing an agricultural enterprise that would take its place with the many coastal plantations that were being established along the Ogeechee River. Among the best known of these plantations were the Kilkenny, Belfast, Cottenham, Belvedere, Mount Hope, Strathy Hall and Cherry Hill. The remains of all these properties and almost two dozen more plantations would be absorbed into the great tract assembled by Ford, who purchased the first of his eventual 85,000 acres in 1925. With this purchase a new era for the Ogeechee Neck had begun.

## MCALLISTER POINT I

The design of McAllister Point combines two great southern traditions. The public squares of nearby Savannah are echoed in the large commons at the center of the neighborhood, while the design of the surrounding residences is inspired by the side yard houses and flanking porches found in Charleston homes.

One of the region's most storied families is memorialized in the name of the new neighborhood. Their rise to prominence began in 1817 when George W. McAllister bought the nearby plantation Strathy Hall, which is located approximately three miles east of this site. His son, Joseph L. McAllister, organized the Hardwicke Mounted Riflemen, who served in the 7th Georgia Cavalry during the Civil War. Other family members include Georgia attorney generals, senators, mayors of Savannah and leaders in communities from New York to California.

## MCALLISTER POINT II

Among the richest landowners in the region, George W. McAllister owned Genesis Point, a commanding shoreline bluff about ten nautical miles up the Ogeechee River from McAllister Point. Fort McAllister, a formidable military structure designed to maintain



Confederate control of the river, was later build on this site. The fort was severely tested during the Civil War, when naval assaults by Union ships, including the ironclad Montauk, repeatedly failed to dislodge its defenders. It was only when Union General William Tecumseh Sherman gave up his naval campaign and launched a ground assault that the fort was finally overrun on December 13, 1864. By preventing Northern forces from penetrating into the heart of the Ogeechee Neck for so long, Fort McAllister probably prolonged the war by protecting the region's strategically vital agricultural production.



# The Ford Plantation

## MAIN HOUSE I

After staying for many years in Cherry Hill House, the Fords decided in 1935 to construct a new and grander home. For inspiration they looked to The Hermitage, a plantation house on the Savannah River built in the 1820's by Henry McAlpin. The house was noted for its beautiful Savannah grey bricks, which were produced in a nearby factory founded by McAlpin. Despite local opposition, the Fords purchased then demolished The Hermitage in order to salvage the bricks for their new home, which was designed by local architect Cletus W. Bergen.



The Fords visited Richmond Hill House together until Henry's death in 1947. Clara's passing three years later led to the sale of the house and 1,200 acres to a New Hampshire industrialist. Following years of disuse, including service as a restaurant and for hay storage, the home was restored in the 1980's.

## MAIN HOUSE II

The Henry Ford house sits on the site of an earlier antebellum plantation home built by Thomas Savage Clay, although the surrounding oaks were probably planted by a previous owner, John Harn. By 1860, the Clay family operated rice plantations as well as cotton and cattle farms across 7,700 acres. Much of their wealth was destroyed in General William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea, by which the Union general aimed to destroy the Ogeechee Neck breadbasket. Clay's house was burned down on December 12, 1864, and many plantations along the river suffered a similar fate.

Remnants of the now vanished antebellum plantation era can be seen across the river, where long abandoned rice fields shelter abundant wildlife and fauna. A nature trail formed by an old levy provides a superb platform from which to view the preserve.

## RICE MILL I

John Harn probably planted the great live oaks lining the river when he founded Dublin Plantation in the first half of the 18th century. Extending to the location where Henry Ford would later build his home, the trees are laid out in the form of the first letter of Harn's family name. During the Civil War these oaks sheltered a Confederate cannon battery of guns salvaged from the CSS Nashville, a blockade runner sunk by a Union ironclad in a battle at nearby Fort McAllister.

Another casualty of the Civil War was the brick building beyond, which served as a rice mill for the surrounding rice plantation until it was burned and left in ruins by Union General William Tecumseh Sherman in his famous March to the Sea. Henry Ford restored the rice mill and used it as his laboratory and place of retreat when in residence.

## RICE MILL II

Across the river can be seen the rice dikes hand-built by Irish labor in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. With the South's defeat in the Civil War, the booming rice economy of the Ogeechee Neck created by earthworks like these collapsed. Rice cultivation continued on a much reduced scale until 1887, when a devastating hurricane destroyed the remaining dikes, crops and equipment. Cotton took over until the boll weevil wiped it away as well. At the turn of the 20th century, Bryan County was suffering from pockets of subsistence living, disease and minimal economic activity. The arrival of Henry Ford in the 1920's changed the course of the area's history and led to its eventual recovery. Today the surviving antebellum dikes serve as a nature trail and protective enclosure for the extensive wildlife that inhabits the marshlands.

## CHERRY HILL PLANTATION I

Cherry Hill Plantation was originally part of a larger tract acquired by John Harn in 1734 and sold to John Maxwell thirty years later. It was Maxwell, a British Loyalist, who carved 300 acres out of Harn's estate to form Cherry Hill, which he had to deed to his daughter to avoid confiscation after the Revolutionary War. A Rhode Islander, Richard James Arnold, eventually purchased the property and developed it as a working rice plantation. He also built the first version of the Cherry Hill plantation house. By 1840, Arnold was the third richest man in Bryan County.

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# RAISING RED DRUM



Tate and Lucy Kloeppel help Rick Eager from Swimming Rock Fish Farm stock reds in Lake Clara.

Rascals Fish Farm” on the back porch of Ogeechee Outfitters in order to accommodate 1,000 half-inch redfish that were flown in from a private salt water hatchery in Texas in three aerated coolers. We are trying to get the fish to about two inches before we release them in Lake Clara.

In order to stock Lake Clara with redfish, we have added 1,000 ten- to twelve-inch fish to the lake during July and August. These fish were raised from fingerlings in Charleston, SC.

Ogeechee Outfitters is also attempting to grow some redfish from fingerlings. During July, we constructed “Little

“This is a real science experiment,” said Fuzzy Davis, Ford’s Director of Outdoor Pursuits. “I really don’t know of any private club that actually has raised saltwater fish for pond stocking. There are many challenges, such as making saltwater daily and keeping up with feeding schedules.”

We have lost some of the fish, but we still have some that have grown from one-half inch to four inches in just two months! The next challenge is acclimating the fish to the salinity in Lake Clara so that they can be released in September.

The Outdoor Pursuits Staff is happy to show members and guests Little Rascals Fish Farm—just stop by and ask!



Reds being stocked in Lake Clara by the Main House Gate.

# ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE CREATES LAKE HABITATS



Artificial structure is a very important part of the habitat in The Ford Plantation lakes. Christmas trees, bits of concrete, concrete pipe, and even discarded wood pallets can be used for habitat. The structure provides shade for larger fish and also congregates the smaller forage species, such as bluegill and shad, thus making it easier for the larger predators to catch them. In order to make some low-profile habitat, Outdoor Pursuits Director Fuzzy Davis has used plastic beverage crates with limbs from cedar trees. The crates are weighed down with discarded brick material. The only actual cost in these structures was for the plastic wire ties that are used to stack the crates together. “We plan to add thirty to forty of these to some of the lakes on the front nine,” said Fuzzy. “The bass are going to love these shallow water structures, and they will be ideal for fly casting or spin fishing along the banks of the lakes. As of now, we are concentrating on the lakes adjoining holes two and three.” Being good stewards of the land is one of the cornerstones of The Ford Plantation. Artificial structure for our lakes is just one way we show our commitment to enhancing and preserving our natural habitat for generations to come.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

As I write this letter, plans are well underway for our annual Homecoming celebration; our theme this year is Return to Old Savannah. Traditionally, this has been the most anticipated and grandest party we have, and this year should be no exception. Spread over three days, it will include a cabaret style tribute to Johnny Mercer, our great Low Country Oyster Roast, and finally the Homecoming Gala, featuring the fabulous creations of our Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and his culinary team.

This fall we will hold our Annual Meeting and Board Elections during Homecoming weekend. Please make plans to join us on Thursday, October 21 at 3:00 p.m. for this important business meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Welcome Home,

Bill

## A SEED IS PLANTED...

In May 2009, Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and I began to discuss the idea of creating a modest vegetable garden and small farming operation at The Ford Plantation.

We both agreed that it might be fun and useful, as well as educational and topical, to bring a small piece of “the farming life” back to Ford, and that members would ultimately benefit from the freshest produce available—grown on the property with organic techniques. The seed was planted, and several early discussions gave way to four to five weeks of part-time brainstorming, planning, and scouting around the Plantation for possible sites, with Facilities & Grounds Director Chris Howard. Our project was now affectionately called “Edsel’s Experimental Farm,” in honor of Henry and Clara’s only son.

## THE FARM TAKES SHAPE

With planning underway, two perfect sites were identified—a small plot beside The Clubhouse and a larger area in the center of the Silk Hope Paddock—and this “labor of love” began to take shape. With the creative juices flowing, one thing quickly led to another, and an exciting plan developed that included a Chef’s Herb Garden, a Home Grown Vegetable Garden, a Flower Garden, and a Chicken Barn.

Ford’s maintenance crew built a fence around the new farm using materials found around the shop and converted one bay of the run-in shed into a “house” for the chickens. The culinary team put lots of sweat equity into preparing the chicken barn and plotting the farm layout, and the grounds maintenance team prepared the new garden for its first plantings. Ford’s Garden Club also worked with our culinary team to plan the plantings and provide advice on growing in the South.

After doing a bit of research on the many varieties of chickens that are raised successfully in the southeastern United States, we settled on the Silver-Laced Wyandotte and placed an order for 19 newborn hens and one rooster via mail order! Our baby chicks arrived via US Mail on July 15, 2009.

The summer and fall of 2009 were spent preparing the soil and tending to the garden whenever free time allowed, in addition to caring for the growing chickens. By late August 2009, a small batch of heirloom tomatoes, fresh herbs, and Chili peppers was ready for harvest, and the first fruits of our summer labors made their way to The Clubhouse dining room menu.

## OUR FIRST BAKERS DOZEN

On a sunny day in mid-January 2010, during a routine check of the garden and the chicken house, Juan Carlos was the lucky one to discover the first batch of freshly-laid eggs—still warm in their nesting boxes! Since that day, our flock of Wyandotte hens has laid approximately one dozen organic eggs per day—that’s roughly seven dozen per week. These farm-fresh eggs have been featured in Clubhouse desserts, breads, and salads, prepared as deviled eggs, and cooked to order for breakfast at The Main House. The hens continue to lay, and we continue to use the fresh eggs daily in many of our food preparations.

In the spring of 2010, we planted a variety of vegetables and herbs, including tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, squash, lettuces, peppers, collard greens, okra, eggplant, basil, and more. Our culinary team used this produce to create fresh, delicious meals for members and guests. We also had a bed of assorted flowers, which we clipped and used in our tabletop vases at The Clubhouse and Lake Dye Grill.



Above, Anne Copp, Chair of the Garden Club, Line Cook Blake Beason (in white shirt), and Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez plant the garden at Edsel’s Experimental Farm in March 2010. By May 2010, vegetables are being harvested, and the hens continue to lay eggs (right).



## LOOKING AHEAD

Recent additions to “the farm” include two baby goats and two baby rabbits. The female goat will mature and produce fresh goat’s milk, which our culinary team will collect and use as they experiment with recipes for our own house-made artisan Goat Cheese. The rabbits—well, they’re just soft barnyard pets for now.

Any excess yield from the garden will be cooked into stocks, soups, and sauces, canned in-house, and sold to members and guests through The Ford Market in custom-labeled mason jars. The shortest distance from farm to table—and a model of sustainability!

What started as an initial discussion about growing some organic tomatoes and fresh herbs has “blossomed” into a full-fledged mini farm. It’s been a fun project for all involved. It’s also been challenging, educational, frustrating, exciting, exhilarating, gratifying, and a whole lot of hard work, in addition to being a source of pride—something people seem to care about and really appreciate.

*Bob Gusella is General Manager and C.O.O. of The Ford Plantation.*

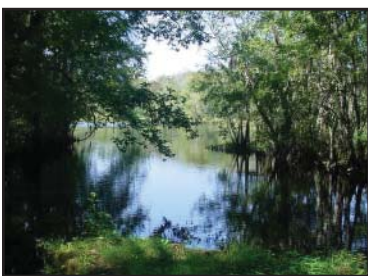
## MOVING BACK FROM HENRY FORD TO THE QUEENSBOROUGH SETTLEMENT

*In January 2009, Professor Howard Keeley, a Princeton Ph.D. and Director of the Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University, gave an illustrated talk at The Ford Plantation on the subject of Irish settlement along the Ogeechee River, especially the Eighteenth-Century Township called Queensborough. In this article, Dr. Keeley revisits the topic—a highlight of the exciting history of this special part of our country.*

Henry Ford's grandfather and grandmother, as well as his father William, were Protestant natives of Ballinascarthy, a farming village around 27 miles west of Cork City, Ireland. In 1847 (or "Black '47"), at the miserable height of the Great Potato Famine, the family unit sailed for America from Queenstown—now Cobh, the ocean port of Cork. Once Stateside, William Ford married the foster daughter of another Cork emigrant. In their eldest son, named Henry, William and his wife nurtured a profound consciousness of strong Irish roots, and, unsurprisingly, Henry Ford made a sentimental trip to Co. Cork in 1912.

Equally unsurprisingly (we're talking about a visionary industrialist, after all), the emotional connection developed into a business strategy; and a mere five years later, the man that many Irish affectionately call "Henry O'Ford" opened his first European factory in Cork city. That facility became a huge player in global tractor production and was especially associated with the Fordson Model N. When it shut down in the 1980s, it employed 7,000 people. To tractor manufacturing, the Cork plant added car assembly in the 1930s, around the time that Henry Ford purchased the Ogeechee riverbank property outside Savannah, Georgia, now known and celebrated as The Ford Plantation.

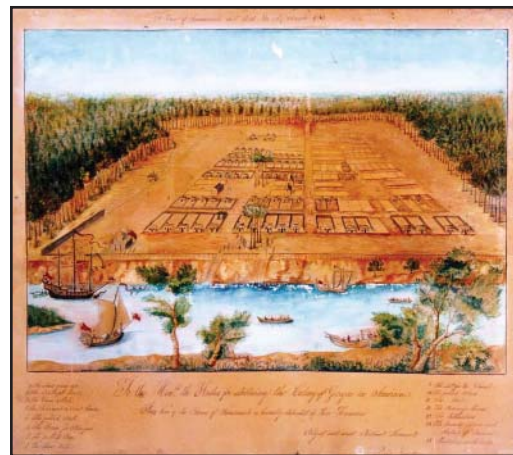
The Ford family's Irish American story is remarkable in myriad ways, one of which is how it complicates the popular notion that the Famine forced only poor Irish Catholics to emigrate. As we contemplate the Ogeechee at the beautiful, serene Ford Plantation,



it's worth casting our minds up-river and back in time from Henry Ford to other Irish Protestants—specifically, several hundred woman and men who, in the mid-eighteenth century, made the audacious decision to settle on its banks when it was a wilderness waterway.

## SETTLING GEORGIA'S "WILD WEST"

Georgia's second Royal Governor, Irishman Henry Ellis (known as "Georgia's Second Founder"), was in office from 1757 to 1760, and during that time, he facilitated negotiations between the native Creek Indians and the white population, which was largely based in Savannah and Augusta. Those contacts helped develop the climate for the Creeks and the Colony to sign the Augusta Treaty of November 1763. That document rendered available for European settlement significant amounts of land in Georgia's "wild west," as the region inland from Savannah then truly was.



However, taking on the humid, insect-bedeveled forests of the interior wasn't attractive to every European. One had to be hungry for opportunity, tenacious in purpose and act, and ready to accept hard-

ships and dangers. Prepared to answer the call to make farms and build a new town on 50,000 acres of former Creek territory on the Ogeechee—one hundred miles from Savannah and fifty southwest of Augusta—were Presbyterians from Ulster, Ireland's northernmost province. Today, these early Irish settlers are largely forgotten, receiving no mention in most Georgia history texts, yet they were bold and self-reliant colonial-era pioneers: the kind of people that Henry Ford would, one imagines, have admired.

## IRISH DOMINATE DEERSKIN TRADE

Undoubtedly, Ford was a ground-breaking Irish-American, and a comparable spirit of enterprise is manifest in the Irishmen who dominated the Indian skin trade in the Carolinas and Georgia at the time of the Augusta Treaty. Massive European demand for deerskins brought significant business success to such traders as John Rae and the very colorful George Galphin, who fathered nine illegitimate children by Creek, black, and white lovers. Martha, a daughter conceived with a French woman, would marry John Milledge, who became Governor of Georgia.

# THE IRISH ON THE OGEECHEE

Both Galphin and Rae were Presbyterian natives of Ulster: the former from Armagh city, Co. Armagh, and the latter from the Ballynahinch area of Co. Down. Today, we would classify them as broadly Scotch-Irish, but then they'd have been seen simply as Irish. Rae's base was his plantation, Rae's Hall, around four miles from Savannah (now part of the Georgia Ports Authority's Savannah complex); while Galphin established himself at Silver Bluff on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, across from Augusta. Rae and Galphin became the chief developers of the newly available Ogeechee tract, which was given the name Queensborough.

## INCENTIVES BRING SETTLERS

The partners petitioned the Colony to provide incentives—called bounty payments—to attract settlers from Ulster. Specifically, they requested monies to supplement the sea-passage and house-building; a ten-year holiday from taxes; and, most importantly, land-grants of 100 acres per head-of-household and 50 acres per child. This effort should be seen in the context of eighteenth-century Scotch-Irish settlement of Eastern North America. Respecting the Appalachian region, from Pennsylvania to Georgia, Professor Jay P. Dolan writes (in *The Irish Americans*) that the Ulster Irish “comprised as much as 50 percent of the white population by 1790.”

John Rae, like Henry Ford after him, realized the need for smart advertising, and he sought to tempt settlers from Ulster by having letters he authored published in the *Belfast Newsletter* by his Ireland-based brother Matthew. A letter in the 17 May 1765 edition of the paper reads, “Brother, if you think a number of good industrious families will come over here I will do everything in my power to assist them...[in] this country of Freedom.”



Ulster Presbyterians resented being tenant farmers, as well as paying tithes to support the established Episcopal Church. In addition, flax-growing and

linen-weaving—Ulster's economic engine—were in severe decline. Rae's piece continues, “there are no rents, no tithes here,” and it also assures readers of “a firm peace with the Indians around us” and “greater plenty of good eating and drinking” than in Ireland.

## CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

The Center for Irish Studies warmly welcomes inquiries about its Queensborough project. Please feel free to contact the Center by email: [irish@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:irish@georgiasouthern.edu). Sponsorship opportunities are available.

## QUEENSBOROUGH THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

On 2 September 1768 the Matthew Rae-chartered ship Prince George arrived in Savannah from Belfast with 107 passengers, most of whom were the debut Queensborough settlers. More ships followed until early 1774; and each settler family received farmland, plus a town lot, although the town never materialized. It remains unclear how many hundreds of Ulster folk established themselves on Queensborough land, but February 1771 saw John Rae successfully petition the Council of Georgia for an additional 25,000 acres because the habitable areas of the original tract had become fully occupied. December of that year brought the slaying of a settler by a Creek, but Galphin apprehended the killer and delivered him to the Creeks, who executed him.



The Revolutionary War effectively halted further development of Queensborough, which suffered at the time due to the Tory sympathies of its Scottish-born

but Irish-ordained Presbyterian minister. Galphin, however, worked in a savvy fashion to keep the Creeks from aiding the loyalists. When the State of Georgia came into existence, it determined to create a new capital, Louisville, on land confiscated from one of the original Queensborough settlers.

## QUEENSBOROUGH RESEARCH PROJECT

In our time, Queensborough is honored in the name of a Louisville-headquartered bank company, as well as a signature, interdisciplinary research project by Georgia Southern University. Currently, a faculty-student archaeological team is uncovering foundations of some settlement homesteads, while the Center for Irish Studies is working with collaborators—such as the Institute for Ulster-Scots Studies at the University of Ulster and the Jefferson County Historical Society (in Louisville)—to produce a high-definition historical documentary about the venture. These pursuits reflect the idea that “we must all lift together and pull together,” which, clearly, was central for the intrepid Queensborough pioneers. The quoted phrase, of course, is a dictum of Henry Ford's!



The Ford Market provides members and guests with several food and beverage options on property. Our goal is to supply you with the best products available with little effort on your behalf. This will give you less time shopping and more time enjoying your amenities here at Ford.

All members are eligible to buy products, such as fresh seafood, steaks, free range chicken, produce, and wine, through the Food & Beverage Department. This allows you to purchase the best quality products available, without the hassle of shopping. For more information, or to place an order, please contact Food and Beverage staff at 912-756-5745 or [bar@fordplantation.com](mailto:bar@fordplantation.com).

The Ford Market also features various specials, such as homemade bread, artisanal cheese, prosciutto, and soups, every week. These specials are available on the evenings our dining facilities are open. Call The Clubhouse to reserve your order (912-756-7263), or stop in to pick up your selection.

The Ford Plantation provides an opportunity for members and guests to grab a snack between meals and on those days when our dining facilities are closed. On the lower level of The Clubhouse, a reach-in refrigerator is stocked with cold soft drinks, freshly-prepared sandwiches, candy, chips, and packaged snacks. There's cold beer available in the Golf Pro Shop—just ask the Pro on duty. The whole program—other than beer—is self-service and on the honor system (guests may pay by credit card in the Pro Shop). Simply help yourself and sign the posted form.

## HISTORICAL MARKERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

The famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted visited Cherry Hill during his tour of Southern plantations in 1853. Afterward Olmsted wrote of the magnificent double rows of live oaks, which were then around 135 years old, “I have hardly in all my life seen anything so impressively grand and beautiful.”

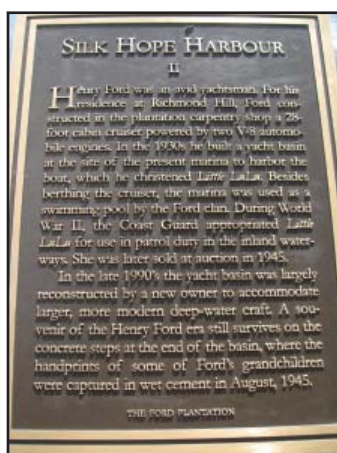
### CHERRY HILL PLANTATION II

On the eve of the Civil War, Arnold donated money to the Savannah Militia, and then returned to Rhode Island. His sons, William Eliot and Thomas Clay, remained to run their plantations and fight with the Confederate Army. Federal troops burned Cherry Hill on December 12, 1864. After the War, Thomas continued rice production using hired laborers. In 1874, brother William built a substantial plantation residence, which has been remodeled several times and now stands on Lot CH1. Due to mismanagement, William sold his holdings at public auction in 1877. By the close of the century rice production had ceased at Cherry Hill and all along the Ogeechee River. Cherry Hill was among the tracts acquired by Henry Ford when he began amassing property in the 1920's. Today Cherry Hill is memorialized by Oak Alley and the newly constructed village that bears its name.

### SILK HOPE HARBOUR I

In 1753, William Butler was granted lands on the Ogeechee Neck, including the tract that would later become known as Silk Hope Plantation. His daughter, Mary Butler, married the Charleston merchant and American patriot Thomas Savage in 1767. Savage developed Silk Hope Plantation, the remains of which are located only

100 yards from this site, into one of the first working rice plantations on the Ogeechee River. The great live oaks that sweep the property probably date to his ownership. During the Revolutionary War, Savage proved to be such a nuisance to the British that he was interned at St. Augustine in 1780, and only returned after the War. After Savage's death in 1783, the Plantation passed into first Mary Butler's and then their son William Savage's hands. In the antebellum period the land eventually became divided between the properties of William J. Way and Richard Arnold, owner of the nearby Cherry Hill Plantation.



### SILK HOPE HARBOUR II

Henry Ford was an avid yachtsman. For his residence at Richmond Hill, Ford constructed in the plantation carpentry shop a 28-foot cabin cruiser powered by two V-8 automobile engines. In the 1930s he built a yacht basin at the site of the present marina to harbor the boat, which he christened Little LuLu. Besides berthing the cruiser, the marina was used as a swimming pool by the Ford clan. During World War II, the Coast Guard appropriated Little LuLu for use in patrol duty in the inland waterways. She was later sold at auction in 1945.

In the late 1990's the yacht basin was largely reconstructed by a new owner to accommodate larger, more modern deep-water craft. A souvenir of the Henry Ford era still survives on the concrete steps at the end of the basin, where the handprints of some of Ford's grandchildren were captured in wet cement in August, 1945.

# FUN AT FORD



The Ford Plantation offers members and guests many exciting events throughout the year. Enjoy these photos from this past spring and summer. We look forward making more memories here at Ford!





*Save the Dates*

October 21, 2010 .....	Club Annual Meeting and Board Elections
October 21–October 24, 2010 .....	Homecoming Weekend
October 30, 2010 .....	Adult Halloween Costume Party
November 25–27, 2010 .....	Thanksgiving Weekend
December 24–26, 2010 .....	Christmas Celebration
December 31, 2010 .....	New Year's Eve
February 19, 2011 .....	Monte Carlo Night
April 22–24, 2011 .....	Easter Weekend
May 28, 2011 .....	Memorial Day Celebration
July 2, 2011 .....	Independence Day Celebration



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