



Our Sporting Life

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



A publication for members and friends of The Ford Plantation

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE GM

Happy New Year, and welcome to the January/February edition of *Our Sporting Life*... With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season behind us, we can look back with “fond memories” of 2010 and look forward with anticipation of great things to come in 2011. I hope the upcoming year is filled with much prosperity and success for all of you.

Thanks to all of you for your support and patronage of the Club last year. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the Club together during the holiday season, whether it was at one of our special events, or enjoying a meal together, or just casting a shrimp net and reeling in the catch of the day. Ford is a fun and fascinating place for all ages, and there’s nothing more special than seeing two or three generations from the same family as they make new memories here that will last a lifetime.

One of the intangibles that truly sets TFP apart from other clubs and communities is our wonderful people—both Club members and employees. Our membership roster is filled with interesting and unique individuals and couples from all over the world, many of whom belong to other great clubs and all of whom bring valuable experiences and expectations to Ford that help to shape our Club culture. And our family of Club professionals remains dedicated to delivering a world-class club experience through friendly personalized service, innovative events and programs, and good old-fashioned hard work. We enjoy serving you and experience great satisfaction when we know the job has been done well.

My sincere hope for this New Year is that you’ve made a resolution to visit TFP more often, and that you’ll bring family members and friends along with you. We have some great things planned for 2011, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best regards,

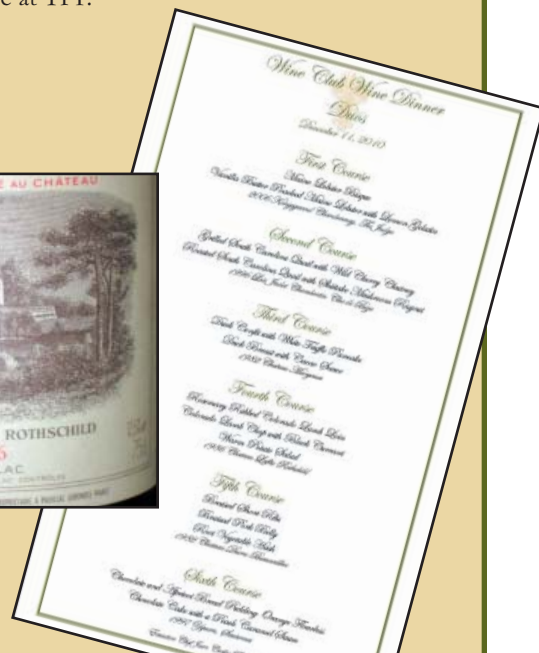
Best regards,

Bob Gusella

Cover Photo of The Oyster House Courtesy of Ford Naturalist Mike Womble.

TFP WINE CLUB HOSTS HOLIDAY DINNER

A distinguished group of TFP “oenophiles” (that is, connoisseurs of fine wines) gathered in mid-December for a special inaugural TFP Wine Club Dinner at The Main House. In the midst of a wonderful six-course gourmet dinner featuring elegant service and engaging conversation, six world-class and highly sought-after wines were paired with each course along with a description of the wine by the member who graciously shared it from his or her private cellar. Special thanks go out to Mitch Kornblit, Stephen Rabinowitz, and Bill Thompson for helping to coordinate the details of this very special evening. We look forward to hosting future Wine Club Dinners here at TFP.



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CHRISTMAS AT THE FORD PLANTATION

CHRISTMAS AT FORD

Members of The Ford Plantation Photo Club, under the direction of Ford Naturalist Mike Womble, took photos of our holiday decorations. Again this year, we thank Diane Levy and her band of elves for the wonderful decorations.



Photo above by Nina Weil. Photos left, below, and right by Tom Sawyer.



Photos left and right by Susie Morgan.



Photo above by Beth Smithberger. Families who had their portraits taken during Breakfast with Santa on Christmas Eve may view and order photos at www.cobblestonephotography.com. (Click on online ordering.) Please call Beth with any questions at 912-756-7376.

MEN'S MEMBER/GUEST

The Men's Member/Guest Golf Tournament was held Thursday, November 4 through Saturday, November 6, 2010. This popular two-man match play tournament provided a great opportunity for members to host friends and colleagues at Ford. Each team was preflighted based on their combined team handicap. The play was four-ball match play, and each team played five nine-hole matches. Results follow:

Dye Flight

Winner: Ralph Eagle/Ben Hudson
 Runner-up: Bill Coad/Ed Godfrey

Tillinghast Flight

Winner: Mike Bryson/John Stanko
 Runner-up: Austin Sullivan/Jerry Degolian

Ross Flight

Winner: Dell Keith/John Helmken (Overall Champions)
 Runner-up: Tony Frabotta/John Decarolis

MacDonald Flight

Winner: Ben MacMillan/John Usher
 Runner-up: Ken Rogers/John Greenan



John Helmken (left) and Dell Keith were the overall champions in the Men's Member/Guest Golf Tournament held November 4-6, 2010.

EMPTY BOTTLE OPEN

Thanks to all members for participating in our annual Empty Bottle Open on New Year's Day. The weather was fantastic! Individuals played 18 holes, using a Stableford scoring system. Rather than counting the total number of strokes taken, Stableford scores points based on the number of strokes taken at each hole. Unlike traditional scoring methods, where the aim is to have the lowest score, under Stableford rules, the objective is to have the highest score. This event had both men's and women's divisions, and winners received prizes of Pro Shop credit. Results follow:

Men's Division			Ladies' Division		
Name	Score	Place	Name	Score	Place
Bill Coad	4	1st	Doranne Coad	3	T1
Ralph Eagle	3	2nd	Dale Budde	3	T1
Byron Williams	E	3rd			
Jack Shafer	-1	4th			

FORD PLANTATION GOLF TOURNAMENTS MEMBER/MEMBER

Friday, March 11–Saturday, March 12, 2011

Pick your favorite member (or the member who is playing particularly well!) and make a team. This two-day tournament features a One Best Ball format on day one and a Two Person Quota format on day two.

THE ENGLAND

Friday, March 18, 2011

This is a black tee championship honoring the memory of assistant golf pro Andy England. This is a one-day individual, nonflighted handicapped tournament. The low net player for the event will be the Champion.

MEN'S INVITATIONAL

Thursday, March 31–Saturday, April 2, 2011

Members have the opportunity to invite guests to comprise teams of two. The format for this popular event is a 45 hole, Net Best Ball and Two-Man Quota with 27 holes on day one and 18 on day two.

LADIES' INVITATIONAL

Wednesday, April 6–Friday, April 8, 2011

Ladies have the opportunity to invite guests to comprise teams of two for this popular event. The format is a Two Day Net Eclectic. This event is played with a full handicap.

JUNIOR GOLF CLINIC WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

The golf staff offers a clinic for junior players on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00–5:00 p.m. Juniors will learn rules, etiquette, and swing fundamentals to help build a foundation for life long play. The cost of the clinic is \$25 per player. Children ages six and up are encouraged to participate. Please call the Golf Pro Shop at 912-756-2742 or email cwcanfield@fordplantation.com to sign up.



GOLF COURSE

THE FORD PLANTATION'S PETE DYE SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIP

For the past two years, The Ford Plantation Golf Maintenance Department has been operating The Pete Dye Agronomic Scholarship Program. This is a developmental internship program for young professionals with a passion for golf course maintenance.

This program has been met with enthusiastic support from the members of our Club and the universities involved in the program. "The financial support we get for this program from our members is astounding. Without their help, this program would not exist," says Director of Golf Course Maintenance Nelson Caron.

Each year, professors from leading turfgrass universities (University of Georgia, Penn State, Purdue, Clemson, North Carolina State, and University of Florida) submit up to two nominees for the internship/scholarship program. Nelson Caron and CW Canfield, Director of Golf, submit these names to the Pete Dye Scholarship Committee, which includes Mike Killian, Stephen Rabinowitz, and Dr. Bill Thompson, Greens Committee Chair. Selected golf course interns receive a scholarship to be used for educational expenses.

They also receive an hourly wage for the duration of the three-month internship. Free housing (graciously provided by Dr. Thompson), competitive wages, and the scholarship make the Pete Dye Internship one of the most sought after internships in the country.

In 2009, we accepted two interns from Purdue: Brent Seyer and David Cooper. Brent graduated from Purdue in January '10 and is now working full time at Augusta National Golf Club. David Cooper will be graduating this fall and intends to join Valhalla Golf Club in Kentucky full time. This past summer, we had two more interns from Purdue University: Dane Alexander and

Kurt Hockemeyer. Dane will be interning at another golf club this upcoming summer, and Kurt is considering pursuing a Masters Degree from Purdue when he graduates in the spring.

The capstone of the internship program is when each intern gets to run the golf maintenance crew for three to four days at the end of the summer. David Cooper commented, "Running the crew for a week was the highlight of my summer. This is not something all interns get to do at other clubs."

The Pete Dye Scholarship is currently accepting donations for the upcoming 2011 summer internships. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the scholarship fund, please make checks payable to the "Savannah Community Foundation," and write "TFP Pete Dye Scholarship" 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. The Foundation is classified by the IRS as a Section 501(c)(3) charity, so all donations made in 2011 will fall under the IRS regulations for charitable contributions. If you have any questions or would like more details on the program, please contact C.W. at 912-756-5776 or cwcanfield@fordplantation.com.



Interns take part in all facets of golf course maintenance (left). Last summer, interns had an opportunity to spend a day with golf course architect Tim Liddy and engineer Ray Pittman (above, left). The highlight for most interns is managing the crew for four days at the end of the summer (above).



OUTDOOR PURSUITS

WHAT IS YOUR WINTER PURSUIT?

The winter season is the best time for many great outdoor pursuits. January and February are the best months to sight cast for red drum. As the water temperature falls, the shallow backwaters become very clear, and redfish or red drum can be seen on the oyster flats that range in depth from six inches to three feet. This is absolutely the best time of the year to fly cast for reds, as the fish are easy to see and don't spook easily. If fly fishing isn't your thing, the reds can also be caught on spinning tackle with gold spoons or bait.

A bit further offshore, the artificial reefs are loaded with sheepshead, black sea bass, and grouper. Anglers bottom fish with a variety of baits, including fiddler crabs, and can expect to bring back some great eating fish.



Above, Ford Naturalist Mike Womble displays a redfish caught fly casting. Right, Gene McQuown at Dorchester Shooting Preserve, a twenty-minute drive from Ford.



Striped bass fishing can also be very good during the winter season. Just a five-minute boat ride from The Ford Plantation Marina can put you right in the middle of prime striper territory. Stripers range in size from two to twenty pounds and are great sport on light tackle.

If the surf doesn't call you this winter, we have some great pursuits on the turf. Dorchester Shooting Preserve is just a twenty-minute drive from The Ford Plantation and offers a fantastic one hundred-round sporting clays course, as well as some of the best quail hunting in the southeast. If quail and clays aren't your quarry and you're up for some real adventure, try one of Dorchester's wild boar hunts!

A great skeet and trap range is located on Hunter Army Airfield. This range is open to the public and is only 25 minutes from Ford.

If golf has got you down or your tennis elbow is acting up, it's time to try some new outdoor pursuits, and there's no better time than this winter!

2010 ANGLER OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Robbie Carl, son of members Bob and Anne Carl, for being voted The Ford Plantation's 2010 Angler of the Year. Robbie began fishing around The Ford Plantation and surrounding waters about 10 years ago and has pulled plenty of huge bass, stripers, redfish, and flounder during his fishing career. It's a guarantee that if Robbie is at Ford, he is fishing, crabbing, or throwing the net for shrimp.

"Robbie is the most dedicated angler that I have ever seen," said Fuzzy Davis, Outdoor Pursuits Director. "He fishes in all weather conditions from dawn 'til dusk and has honed in on many of Ford's hot spots! Robbie definitely thinks like a fish!"

Robbie will receive a gift certificate from Ogeechee Outfitters, which includes a complimentary half-day inshore fishing charter. If you are wondering where the fish are biting, just look for Robbie—he is never too far away from the great action.

Capt. Danny Sharpe (left) and Robbie Carl display The Ford Plantation's Angler of the Year perpetual trophy.

BIODIVERSITY AT FORD

We have a lot of great things to talk about here at The Ford Plantation, and one of them is the amazing biodiversity that occurs along this little stretch of the Ogeechee River that we call home. If you are not familiar with the term “biodiversity,” it refers to the assortment of life that lives in a particular area.

We live in an area that is teeming with abundance—more than 250 species of birds call Ford home during all four seasons of the year, and we have an abundance of fish species living in both our lakes and river.

Reptiles and amphibians, though overlooked in the winter, emerge during the spring and rule the evenings of summer. We also have many different mammalian species, like white-tailed deer, wild pigs, river otter, mink, bobcat, and many different species of bats—and we haven’t even spoken about our insect friends. So life is teeming here at Ford.

There was no better time to see this amalgam of life than between Thanksgiving and Christmas 2010. Lake Clara had a good shrimp season in the fall, but nothing prepared us for the abundance of fish seen late in the year. Beginning in late November, we noticed a few Great Egrets gathering in the canal near the Marina looking for fish.

Well, the fish came and kept coming for a month: threadfin shad, gizzard shad, menhaden, glass minnow, etc., in such numbers that you couldn’t count them. The fish appeared in both Lake Clara and in the Ogeechee River. Along with the fish came more and more birds; soon we had more than 100 Great Egrets, a dozen endangered Wood Storks, Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons—more than 200 birds in all taking part in a feast for the ages. We had so many fish that if you threw a small five-foot cast net over the fish, it was too heavy to lift up—literally thousands of fish were stacked in the lake.

One afternoon as I was watching the show, I noticed that one of the Great Egrets had been tagged with bright orange wing tags. I wrote the number down (11B) and phoned a friend of mine

who is an avid bird watcher. She then sent out word over the web to several birding forums. Almost instantly, my email inbox was filled with inquiries about the bird.

I received a call from the Canadian Fish and Wildlife division. They had a program this summer of tagging egrets to determine where they were wintering. I spoke with the gentlemen directly responsible for tagging our bird. This little egret had been tagged on a lake just north of Toronto, Canada and had flown farther south than any other reported tagged bird. It was amazing! Our little buddy is still here with us; I am checking on him weekly and reporting to the Canadian Fish and Wildlife service all the information I can get.

If you are out on Lake Clara or walking the Dyke Road, keep an eye out for our tagged Canadian friend, and also look for the large numbers of ducks that are appearing on Lake Clara. It is going to be a great bird watching winter.

—Mike Womble, Ford Naturalist



NEW EQUESTRIAN CENTER STAFF WELCOMED TO FORD

The Ford Plantation is pleased to introduce three new members of our Equestrian Center team. These highly qualified and knowledgeable stable assistants join Equestrian Center Manager Sheryl Jordan, who was profiled in the November/December 2010 newsletter. We encourage members and guests to visit the barn to meet our new staff and the barn “residents.”

HOLLY HUXFORD



Since the age of four, Holly has been enraptured with horses. For the past 20 years, she has balanced jobs that provided her with an income with her equine consulting business. Balancing the two worlds was rewarding, but ultimately, her passion for equines tipped the balance, so she decided to focus on her passion and turn it into a full-time reality. Working in the TFP barn surrounded by people of similar passions and experiences reinforces her conviction and desire to grow her experiences.

One of her pursuits has been in the driving realm—she loves to drive a horse and carriage! Her gelding Tristan is currently stabled in TFP’s barn. Someday soon you will see Tristan and Holly driving down one of the roads of TFP! Holly is originally from Oakland, Maryland, where she owns a forty acre farm with a newly built house, barn, and indoor arena.

SARA GILMAN



Originally from Hollywood, California, Sara lives in Savannah and is pursuing a double major in Equestrian Studies and Sequential Art at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She started working in the horse industry at 14 and has since had diverse jobs in

grooming, riding, training, and instructing, specializing in English disciplines (jumping and dressage). Sara specializes in educating young and green horses, with her focus on the communication and understanding between horse and human. She has even had experience in gentling wild mustangs and training them to show and be pleasure horses for novice riders. Sara is also an accomplished artist, focusing on conceptual art and story boarding in school, along with specialized illustration. She is an exceptional equine artist, having drawn horses all her life. Her main mediums are watercolor, colored pencil, and pen, and horses are naturally her inspiration. At Ford, she hopes to do more with teaching riders and horses to help them enjoy one another’s company to the fullest.

HORSEY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Folks enjoyed meeting the staff, horses, barn kitties, and ponies at The Ford Plantation’s Horsey Holiday Open House on December 26. Children were able to sit on Sugar Maple bareback and experience the warm fuzzy feeling of a pony. They all had their photos taken, too! Folks appreciated the hot chocolate and hot apple cider, and even Sugar Maple drank a cup of cider! The children also learned about the different kinds of grains and hay that we feed to the horses. All in all, the event was a success, and the Equestrian Center staff enjoyed meeting so many members.



During the Horsey Holiday Open House held December 26, children were able to sit on a pony, and members and guests met the staff and “residents” of the barn. Here, (from left) Sara Gilman, Sheryl Jordan, and Angela Nunez (Sheryl’s daughter), help a young rider on Sugar Maple.

SEAN LARKIN



Sean has been riding for more than twenty years and learned to ride on his family’s stud farm and stable yard in Co. Galway, Ireland. His family is firmly established within the equestrian community in Ireland. Sean was involved in all aspects of the operation, including feeding, breaking and training, breeding, sales, and mounted stock work. A graduate

of Georgia Southern University, he has a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management. While at GSU, he rode on the equestrian team, worked at and managed the barn, and taught the equestrian PE classes. His experience has been mostly with jumpers, field hunters, and eventers. He has some western experience and has led numerous trail rides. He has more than thirteen years driving experience, including singles, teams, and draught harness work. For a short time, he gave carriage tours around the Savannah Historic District. With more than 12 years experience in the construction industry as a journeyman carpenter, he has an extensive understanding of the maintenance operations involved in the upkeep of a stable.

EVENTS AND FOOD & BEVERAGE

MEMBER IRON CHEF CHALLENGE III

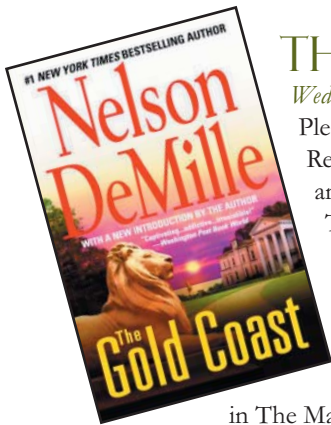
Thursday, January 27, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

Members, don your aprons! It's time once again to compete against fellow members to determine the best member chef in our Member Iron Chef III competition in The Clubhouse. Enter in any (or all) of the following categories: appetizer, entrée, and dessert. Prepare enough food for 8–10, and feel free to bring more, if you like. The Ford Plantation Culinary Team will judge the food. A prize for first place will be awarded to the best member chef. We held two competitions in 2009—the winning recipes are on the members' only web site, under Club News, Food & Beverage.

CRAFT BEER DINNER

Friday, March 22, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

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 as our culinary team creates the perfect beer pairing for the food featured in each course of this five-course meal.



THE BIG READ

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

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

in The Main House.

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. Members are invited to make reservations at The Clubhouse afterwards for dinner. These Speaker Series events are complimentary.

PAULA WALLACE, SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Friday, February 11, 2011

Paula Wallace is the president and co-founder of the Savannah College of Art and Design. She will discuss how SCAD began, its role in the growth of Savannah, and future plans for the school.

COUS COUS SALAD

by Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez

1 cup uncooked Israeli cous cous
¼ cup dried cranberries
¼ cup chopped peanuts
½ chopped red and yellow bell pepper
¼ chopped red onion
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 tablespoon chopped green onions
Orange vinaigrette (recipe below)
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook cous cous (follow directions on box), combine all ingredients, and add vinaigrette until desired texture, and salt and pepper to taste.



Orange Vinaigrette

3 oranges
Juice of 1 orange or ½ cup
1 cup rice wine vinegar
2 cups grape seed oil or canola oil
½ cup parmesan cheese
1 cup sugar
Salt and pepper

Peel and segment oranges and cook with ¾ cup of sugar at low heat for 15 minutes. Break up the oranges into smaller sections as they cook. Set aside until cool. In metal bowl, combine the cooked oranges, orange juice, vinegar, parmesan cheese, and sugar. Whisk and combine the oil, little by little, until your vinaigrette has the right consistency. Add sugar, salt and pepper to taste. (Tip: use 1 part vinegar for 2 parts oil.)

ANNE PRESCOTT KEIGHER, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE FOUNDATION

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Anne Prescott Keigher served as the Conservation Director of the Benjamin Franklin House, the world's only remaining Franklin home. Anne will be giving an informative talk on Franklin, his years in London, the residence he called home, and historic preservation.

January 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

							1 Empty Bottle Open Golf Tournament
2	3	4 5pm Bridge Club	5 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic	6 10am ODP Clinic	7	8 3pm TFP Nature Hike	
9	10	11 5pm Bridge Club	12 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic 6pm Round Table Dinner	13 4pm Photo Club Meeting	14	15	
16 10am Couples' Golf Series Three	17	18 5pm Bridge Club	19 9:30am Coffee Talk with Bob 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic	20 5pm Wine Tasting 6pm Book Club	21 9am Club Board Meeting 10am Garden Club 6pm Oyster Roast	22 Private Evening Event at The Main House	
23 24 25	26 27 28 29	30 5pm Bridge Club	31 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic 5:30pm Ladies Night Out at The Spa	1 10am Sporting Clays Fun Shoot 5pm Iron Chef Challenge	2 5pm Speaker Series: Dr. Michael Smith	3	

Reservations are required for all events. For more information, and to RSVP, please visit the members' only web site (<http://fordplantation.back9links.com>). For questions, please call 912-756-5666.



For the latest Club news, please visit the members' only section of The Ford Plantation web site (www.fordplantation.com).

This information is current as of January 12, 2011.

February 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				3					
6 6pm Super Bowl Party	7			8 ^P 5pm Bridge Club	9 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic	10 4pm Photo Club Meeting	11 5pm Speaker Series: Paula Wallace, President of SCAD	12 9am Gentlemen's Match Play Championship 3pm TFP Nature Hike Private Evening Event at The Clubhouse	
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY									
8 6pm Theme Dinner (Mexican)	14			5 ^P 5pm Bridge Club	16 9:30am Coffee Talk with Bob 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic	17 5pm Wine Tasting 6pm Book Club	18 ^P 9am Club Board Meeting 10am Garden Club	19 Club Special Meeting 1:30pm Bridge Tournament	
20 10am Couples' Golf Series Four	21	VALENTINE'S DAY		22 2pm Golf Course Tour with Nelson Caron 5pm Bridge Club	23 10am Ladies' Golf Clinic 2pm Men's Golf Clinic 3pm Wednesday Afternoon Golf Play (9 Hole) 4pm Junior Golf Clinic 5:30pm Ladies Night Out at The Spa	24	25 ^P	26 ^P Wing and Clay Tournament 6pm Wild Game Dinner	
27	28 ^P								

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