



In Focus

January/February 2010



A publication for members and friends of The Ford Plantation

FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

BRING ON THE NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends, and safely welcomed 2010 with gusto and the hope of great things to come. As the old saying goes, it's "out with the old and in with the new," right? I say, "Bring on the New Year!"

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since I penned my first article for the TFP newsletter. While I officially started my career at Ford in February 2009, I'd accepted the job three months earlier and was provided the opportunity to say hello and introduce myself in the December 2008 issue. My, how time flies!

During my first year at the Club, I've enjoyed meeting and getting to know all of you and have appreciated the opportunity to work closely with the Board of Directors, as well as our professional management team and outstanding staff to improve the Club's



General Manager Bob Gusella will mark his official one-year anniversary with The Ford Plantation in February 2010.

services and amenities for your enjoyment while dramatically improving the financial performance of the Club. Your support of the Club in 2009 was sincerely appreciated; we'll rely upon you again in 2010 to keep the momentum going!

Looking back on 2009 for a brief moment, we implemented several positive operational changes and made tremendous progress in every Club department. Here are a few notable highlights:

- *Club Communications* were greatly enhanced using several different mediums to provide updates and share news with the membership. Weekly Update e-blasts, bi-monthly newsletters, amenity brochures, event flyers and posters, letters from the GM and the Club President, my monthly "coffee talks" at The Main House, our private communication and social network (<http://fordplantation.back9links.com>), and our new-and-improved interactive web site (www.fordplantation.com) were all pieces of a comprehensive plan to encourage your participation and keep you better informed about your Club.

(continued on page 14)

Cover Photo Courtesy of Ford Naturalist Mike Womble. Mike captured this photo on the lawn adjacent to The Main House.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we begin the year 2010, it seems appropriate to reflect on some of the good things that have taken place at The Ford Plantation throughout the past year, as well as to look forward to 2010.

Early in 2009, we welcomed our new General Manager Bob Gusella. I think all would agree that he and his staff have done a splendid job managing all the great amenities here at Ford. This year, we can look forward to that continued high quality in all of our operations.

Our new web site is up and running. Its new look, coupled with its interactivity, facilitate and speed the flow of information both to and from the members. In particular, the calendar of events and the ability to make reservations online help the staff and members to organize and plan events and dinners in a way not possible in the past.

Our new riding arena was completed in 2009. From the comments I have heard, it has been very well received. I am looking forward to the implementation of new equestrian programs that will seek to introduce a greater number of members to this great facility.



The Member Survey has been completed, and at the time of this writing, is being collated for dissemination to the membership in January. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the survey and add comments. The survey will be under review by the Long Range Planning Committee, the Board, and Club Management and will be incorporated into the Long Range Plan that will be forthcoming in 2010.

Our first Town Hall Meeting of 2010 will be held Saturday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m. in The Clubhouse, at which time we will focus on the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead, to include an update on golf course engineering and master planning work that is underway. The Board and I welcome your participation in this important discussion.

In all, as a member-owned Club, I believe we are taking the positive steps necessary to ensure the continued success of The Ford Plantation. The future will be challenging, but with member input and support, I believe it looks bright. My best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

—Bill Weil, Club President

CLUB NEWS

HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE MEMBERS AND SUBCOMMITTEES

The House Committee is now operating with new members Laura Lee Samford, Letty McAdams, Denise Thompson, Terry Morris, and Doranne Coad, in addition to our veteran members, Anne Copp and Vanita Morgan. We have met as a committee and broken into four groups to cover the following areas: Food/Beverage/Events, Buildings/Decoration/Maintenance, Outdoor Gardens/Seasonal Plantings, and Clubhouse Guidelines. Susan Weiss has reviewed our upcoming events schedule with Ford staff, and we are sure that there is something for everyone to have lots of fun.

HOMECOMING 2009

Under the tireless and creative leadership of Susan Weiss, The House Committee oversaw a very successful Homecoming Weekend honoring our military troops. Denise Thompson has agreed to be chair for Homecoming 2010. Members need not be a committee member to work on this event, so if you would like to participate, please give Denise a call.

HOLIDAY SEASON 2009

We would like to thank member volunteers and staff helpers for their extraordinary efforts getting TFP ready for the holidays. Diane Levy graciously agreed to lead the Club's holiday decorating efforts this year, and the results are wonderful! We are so fortunate to be the beneficiaries of her amazing sense of style and professional holiday decorating expertise. Diane enlisted a small group of holiday elves that included members, friends, and TFP staffers, and they worked tirelessly to transform Ford into a holiday winter wonderland. Thanks to all who assisted with this year's holiday decorating efforts! The House Committee is looking for new ways to enjoy The Main House. During the holiday season, we hosted a Ladies' Tea featuring ladies from Fort Stewart. Letty McAdams brought her special entertaining touches to head-up this event. Thanks, Letty. We also used The Main House for Breakfast with Santa on Christmas Eve and for our annual New Year's Eve Celebration.

GROWING AT FORD

Anne Copp and her subcommittee is partnering with Executive Chef Juan Carlos to maximize Ford's herb and vegetable gardens—located at "Edsel's Experimental Farm" in Silk Hope. The subcommittee has also been working on their *Growing at Ford* book, which will feature information and advice on plants that have thrived at Ford, full-color photos of the plants (taken by Naturalist Mike Womble and our Photo Club), and recipes from Executive Chef Juan Carlos and his talented kitchen staff (using many of the fresh herbs and vegetables grown at Ford).

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

At the October 2009 Club Board meeting, some repair and maintenance items were approved. Our committee is in the process of replacing the sofa in The Clubhouse Bar, in addition to recovering the upholstered chairs and a few other small items. The committee hopes to have new pool furniture in place for the upcoming spring season. (The combination of green cushions and navy umbrellas was never intended.) The Committee recommended replacing the screening at The Lake Dye Grill porch. It is more dense to help keep out the mini critters.

The Guidelines Subcommittee has met to update some of our TFP courtesies, primarily designed to help our Food and Beverage Department serve you better. They will share them in January. We are preparing a "suggestion" box and comment card for dining that will be available soon.

Our Committee is looking forward to reviewing the results of the Member Survey so that we may find new ways to make your Ford experience fun for you and your families. We would love to have your input anytime.

—Wendy Dayton
House Committee Chair

TFP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, The Ford Plantation hosted a New Member Reception and Wine Tasting at The Clubhouse. New member Robert Carr (Lot 85, 220 Belted Kingfisher Lane) is shown here with his daughters Ginger (left) and Cameron. In addition to the Carrs, we are delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Christopher and Kashana Kopac, Lot 79, 99 Dublin Drive
- Richard West and Linda Vilee, Lot 101, 210 Spanish Moss Lane
- Jack and Mara Harrington, Lot 177, 166 Little Lulu Lane
- Joseph and Chelsea Rowe, Lot 299, 83 Big Oak Circle
- Marion and Sarah Alexander, designated by Ben and Susie MacMillan



MEN'S MEMBER/GUEST GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Ford Plantation hosted the annual Men's Member/Guest Golf Tournament November 5–7, 2009. We had a great turnout, with 30 teams participating in the event. The tournament consisted of five flights, with teams competing in a points based match play format within their own flight.

The winner of each flight would move on to the shoot out portion of the tournament. The runner up of each flight competed in a one shot chip-off, with the team that hit the shot closest to the pin moving on to the shoot-out.



Ford member Billy Webb (right) and his guest Til Bourland won the 2009 Member/Guest Golf Tournament. Thirty teams participated in the event, held November 5–7, 2009.

In the first flight, Hamlin Beattie and Paul Aitchison won a close points battle with Corey Fountain and Brad Brookshire, beating them by one point, 8 to 7.

The second flight saw Bill Thompson and Gary Thompson win the flight over Ed Godfrey and Ralph Spuehler, 11 to 4.

In the third flight, Wayne Morgan and Bob Aiken set the pace with a point total of 8, but Chris Lawson and Charles Alexander weren't far behind, finishing second with a 6 point total.

The fourth flight was won by Billy Webb and Til Bourland with a point total of 10 and finishing second were Doug Morris and Byron Williams with 2 points.

Bill Roll and Ira Kitograd set the pace in the fifth flight with 9 points, but Ben MacMillan and John Usher were right behind them with 7 points, finishing second.

The chip-off consisted of each player on the team hitting one shot, with the closest shot representing the team. When it was all said and done, Chris Lawson and Charles Alexander hit a fine shot to about 10 inches to claim the last spot in the shoot out.

The shoot-out consisted of all the flight winners in the tournament and one runner up in the tournament. Two teams were eliminated on the first hole and one team every following hole.

By the time the contestants reached the 18th hole, only two teams were left standing: Billy Webb and Til Bourland, along with Hamlin Beattie and Paul Aitchison. Both teams had opportunities at birdie on the 18th green but failed to convert their putts. With both teams being tied in regulation, a chip-off would decide the champion. Billy Webb and Til Bourland came out on top, giving Webb his second Men's Member/Guest Championship at Ford.

Congratulations to Billy Webb and Til Bourland, and a big thanks to all the participating teams in the tournament!

GOLF COURSE SLOPE AND RATING UPDATED

The Georgia State Golf Association recently sent a team of course raters to update our slope and rating. Some of the factors that determine ratings include yardage, topography, fairway widths, rough heights, and the proximity of obstacles such as bunkers, trees, hazards, and out of bounds to each landing area. Green speeds and the firmness of greens are also important considerations in determining accurate ratings.

Golf Course Superintendent Nelson Caron and his crew are to be commended on the current appearance and playability of this "old" golf course. The raters were all impressed with the grounds!

When players enter a score into our handicap system in the golf shop, the new ratings are updated as of December 7, 2009. As you enter a score on another computer, please make sure you use the new rating/slope, as indicated below:

Men	Ladies
Black—75.2/146	Modified—73.3/135
Gold—73.2/140	Red—70.4/127
Modified—71.3/135	
Blue—70.1/132	
White—68.1/125	

GOLF COURSE

FORD WELCOMES PETE DYE AND TIM LIDDY FOR A GOLF COURSE EVALUATION AND WALK-THROUGH

On December 5, 2009, The Ford Plantation Greens and Golf Committees welcomed Hall of Fame Golf Course Architect Pete Dye and Project Architect Tim Liddy for a golf course evaluation and “walk-through.” The day began on a wet note, as the course had 1.5 inches of rain the night before. Although conditions were not great for a nice morning walk... it did give the architects a great visual for the drainage and infrastructure challenges the Ford golf course combats on a daily basis. Strangely enough, the rain was a blessing for that reason.

As the walk-through progressed, Dye reflected on several different types of improvements that would benefit the Club. Some of the improvements discussed were infrastructure repair (drainage and irrigation), aesthetic appeal of the grounds, and minor architectural enhancements to the surrounding property and golf course. Although many topics were discussed, the state of the infrastructure was the number one priority of Dye’s visit. With Dye’s thoughts and the Thomas and Hutton Engineering Study currently being conducted, the Club is well on the way to having a detailed plan that will ensure proper drainage of the golf course and surrounding land and lake bodies.

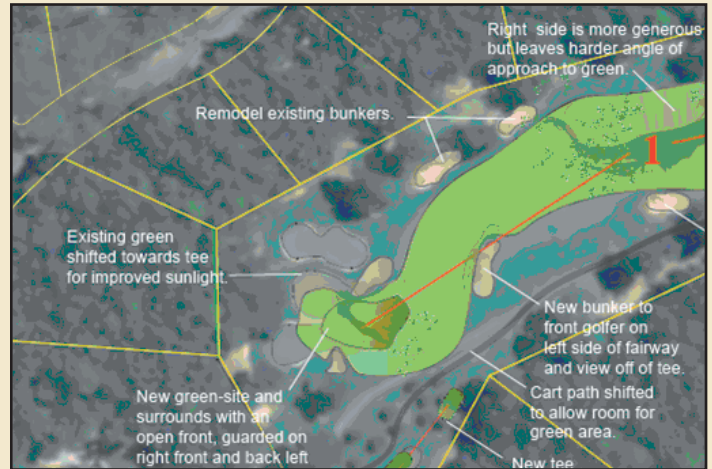
The day concluded with dinner at The Clubhouse that included several members from the Golf and Greens Committees. During the meal, Dye reflected with Ford members on building the course years ago. Dye also took ample time to gaze through the back windows of The Clubhouse, admiring his creation.



Left, Dye explains drainage issues to Thompson as Liddy looks on.



Left, Dye and Tim Liddy discuss the strategy of the 18th hole. Liddy has been Dye’s right-hand man for more than 20 years. Liddy was diligent in capturing all of Dye’s thoughts and concerns for the near future and the years to come. Below, Dye speaks with Bill Maloney about the 15th hole.



Pictured here is golf hole # 1, showing Golf Course Architect Pete Dye’s thoughts concerning property management and enhancement. We are proud to be archiving Dye’s thoughts and concerns, as this information will be priceless in the years to come.



The day began with a walk-through of all 18 holes. Pictured from left to right are Bill Maloney and Bill Thompson from the Greens Committee, Bill Weil, Club President, Pete Dye, Nelson Caron, Golf Course Superintendent, and Sixty (Dye’s dog).

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

GREAT OGEECHEE TROUT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Perfect weather and ideal tides proved to be advantageous for the participants in the fourth annual Great Ogeechee Trout Tournament held on Friday, November 20, 2009. All anglers caught seatrout as well as redfish. Congratulations to First Place winner Jim Hunter (left) for his 2lb 1oz trout. Jim also took the Aggregate Prize, the total weight of his three largest fish, at 3.98 pounds. The Largest Redfish award went to Deep Sea Diva team member Teresa Watkins with her 5lb 4oz fish. She was fishing with Divas Linda Zerbe



and Peggy Gillenwater. Jeff Scott and Robert Watkins had a terrific catch with a great stringer of trout and reds. Angler Jesse Watkins was telling tales of a big one that got away and vowed to return soon to try and catch “Moby Red.”

HAVE A BLAST THIS WINTER!

The cooler months (we don't say cold in the South) are the best months to enjoy shotgun sports such as skeet, trap, sporting clays, and quail hunting. If you're a beginner or a novice shooter, the Outdoor Pursuit Department can get you started on the right track. Mike Womble, Danny Sharp, and Fuzzy Davis are all National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) Level One shooting instructors and would be happy to give you a lesson and show you what fun you can have shooting clay targets. The use of a shotgun, as well as

hearing and eye protection, are included in the price of the lesson; the clay targets and shells are additional costs.

The Ford Plantation has a membership at Dorchester Shooting Preserve, located only 20 minutes away. They offer sporting clays and a variety of wing shooting opportunities. They also have a clubhouse that offers lunch and a well stocked pro shop. TFP members can also enjoy shooting on the public skeet and trap range located at Hunter Army Airfield, right in the heart of Savannah. This club is open to the public on Thursday and Saturday.

This is a wonderful time of year to get outside and to enjoy the great Low Country settings and have some fun breaking clays. For additional information, or to arrange a lesson, call Ogeechee Outfitters 912-756-5886 or email marina@fordplantation.com.

WINTER REDFISH ABOUND

January and February used to be months where guides would do repairs to boats and equipment and long for the upcoming warmer days of early May, when cobia and king mackerel would once again appear. That all ended in the late 1980s when a group of anglers from Hilton Head discovered that redfish could be caught on the shallow water flats. The reds, hiding from marauding dolphin, are found in less than two feet of water and can be easily targeted by spin and fly fishermen.

The low water temperatures also result in clear water, making for great sight casting opportunities. It is not uncommon to see schools of fifty or so fish swimming back and forth on the mud flats and in and around the oyster beds. Winter reds can range in size from one to twelve pounds. If you are looking for a fun winter time adventure, put on your gloves and hat and join us on the flats for some fun winter red fishing.

ANGLERS OF THE YEAR 2009: PEGGY GILLENWATER AND JEFF SCOTT

Congratulations to Peggy Gillenwater and Jeff Scott for winning The Ford Plantation's Angler of the Year. Peggy and Jeff competed in almost every fishing activity sponsored by our Outdoor Pursuit Department. We are thinking about promoting them to guide status for 2010! We appreciate their support, and we hope to see them in many more Ford fishing events. As a token of our gratitude, the anglers were both awarded complementary fishing trip certificates to get them off and casting in the New Year.



OUTDOOR PURSUITS

STERLING CREEK KAYAK ADVENTURE

Bob and Linda Zerbe and their guest took advantage of great weather to go on a kayak adventure down Sterling Creek. We launched the kayaks from the small dock at the end of McAllister Point and timed the trip to allow us to follow the tide up the creek, which made the paddle very enjoyable. We were out looking for wildlife and to enjoy the beautiful scenery located down the creek.



Bob Zerbe (above) enjoys a kayak adventure down Sterling Creek. Right, Bob (left), Linda Zerbe (right), and their guest look for wildlife and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

We spotted several species of woodpeckers, like the pileated woodpecker, redheaded woodpecker, and red-bellied woodpecker. We also saw many different types of small warblers that were migrating through our area. All of this activity, and the trip had just begun.

As we passed under Highway 144, we could see all of last season's swallow nests. We continued to paddle up the creek and encountered some unusually bright red lichen, called bubblegum lichen. After passing under the bridge of the Richmond Hill Plantation Golf Course, we could see and hear more than 50 wood ducks. We followed them for several hundred yards before the tide turned, and it was time to head back.

A few weeks later, I had the chance to take Bill and Sharon Maloney on the same kayak trip. This time we saw a few different animals. We encountered a curious little beaver that was swimming along the rice grass beside us before ducking back out of sight. We were also fortunate enough to find those wood ducks again.

This time we continued to follow them past Harris Trail Road. On the return trip, we even had an encounter with a great horned owl, which flew right in front of us. It was an awesome sight, with its wingspan of more than four feet and completely silent flight. And so ended another

successful trip kayaking down Sterling Creek. If you would like to take advantage of this trip, please contact Mike Womble at 912-547-1624 or naturalist@fordplantation.com.

—Mike Womble,
Ford Naturalist



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: BIRD WOOD CARVING WITH BOB MAPLES

The Ford Plantation hosted an educational workshop showing how artist Bob Maples creates avian art wood sculpture on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Bob demonstrated wood burning, carving techniques, and painting. Bob began his career in woodcarving in 1982 and now resides on Hilton Head Island, SC. Bob studied painting at the Art Institute of Chicago, which helped him develop his style of capturing almost lifelike details in his carvings. Bob's work is available for viewing and purchase in Ogeechee Outfitters. Please stop in and take a look.



HOLIDAYS



Christmas 2009. Clockwise, from top: 1) The Ford Plantation proudly displays the spirit of the Christmas season with lights and decorations throughout the grounds. TFP thanks the member volunteers and staff helpers for their extraordinary efforts getting TFP ready for the holidays. 2) Family and friends enjoyed a four-course seated dinner Christmas Eve at The Clubhouse. 3) Ella (left) and Caroline Scarola, granddaughters of Carol and Ken Radtke, enjoy Breakfast with Santa Christmas Eve morning at The Main House. 4) The Ford Plantation hosted a Christmas Caroling Happy Hour at The Main House on December 23. Here, Margaret Fennell-Judy, Henry Ford's former secretary, enjoys a conversation with Ralph Eagle and Mike Killian, while her son, Bob Fennell, provides music on the grand piano. 5) Ford members and guests from Fort Stewart enjoy a Ladies' Holiday Tea at The Main House on December 9.

AYS 2009

New Year's Eve 2009. The Ford Plantation hosted a lavish New Year's Eve celebration at The Main House. The festivities began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 8:00 p.m., followed by a gourmet four-course seated dinner created by Executive Chef Juan Carlos. The evening also featured select wines and a midnight champagne toast. Dance music was provided by the legendary Ben Tucker Band.



FOOD AND BEVERAGE

SUNDAY THEME DINNERS

The Ford Plantation is hosting special theme dinners this season. Members enjoyed a Mexican night in November and an Italian night in December. Mark your calendars for these upcoming theme dinner nights: Sunday, January 17—San Francisco (Fishermans Wharf); Sunday, February 21—Cajun/Creole; Sunday, March 21—Asian.

CLUBHOUSE RESERVATIONS

Reservations are sincerely appreciated whenever you plan to enjoy the Club for dinner. In order to ensure the excellent service you have come to expect, we ask that you please allow a staff member to seat your party in The Clubhouse Dining Room.

FIRST HALF F&B MINIMUM

Members are reminded that the first half of the 2010 Food and Beverage minimum started January 1. The minimum required food and beverage expenditure per membership is \$750 in the first half of the year and \$750 in the second half of the year (\$1,500 per year in total). All food and beverage purchases, including wine, private catering events, and Ford Market purchases, are credited towards the minimum.

DINING FACILITIES RECEIVE PERFECT SCORES

The Bryan County Health Department recently awarded The Ford Plantation's dining facilities "A" ratings. The Clubhouse, The Main House, and Lake Dye Grill all received perfect scores of 100 for the second time in 2009. Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and his staff are to be commended for their commitment to excellence.

DINING HOURS

Breakfast, Continental—Main House – 756-5735
Thursday – Friday 7:30 – 10:30am

Breakfast, Hot—Main House – 756-5735
Saturday – Sunday 7:30 – 10:30am

Lunch—Clubhouse Dining Room – 756-6983
Wednesday – Sunday 11:30am – 2:30pm

Dinner—Clubhouse Dining Room – 756-6983
Wednesday – Sunday 6:00 – 9:00pm

Clubhouse Bar – 756-6849
Wednesday – Sunday 11:30am – close
Wednesday – Sunday 5:00 – 6:00pm (Happy Hour)

Cookies & Cocktails—Main House – 756-5735
Wednesday – Saturday 3:00 – 7:00pm
Wednesday – Saturday 5:00 – 6:00pm (Happy Hour)

FOOD NETWORK STAR VISITS TFP

Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine and his wife Karen visited The Ford Plantation in December and enjoyed a special wine dinner for two prepared by Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and served by Director of Food and Beverage James Scott. Chef Irvine, who hosts the popular television show *Dinner: Impossible* on The Food Network, lives on Hilton Head Island and is the proprietor of Robert Irvine's EAT!, a popular restaurant on the island.



In late December, Executive Chef Juan Carlos (left) prepared a wine dinner for celebrity chef Robert Irvine (second from right) and his wife Karen at The Main House. Director of Food and Beverage James Scott coordinated and served the meal. Irvine has appeared on numerous Food Network programs and is the host of the popular show *Dinner: Impossible*.

TFP General Manager Bob Gusella, who has known the Irvine's for several years, learned that they were looking for someplace special to celebrate their wedding anniversary and invited them to experience Ford's outstanding cuisine and gracious southern hospitality. Chef Robert and Karen were awestruck by the natural beauty of the Plantation and "blown away" by the amazing food, wine and service they enjoyed while in the care of James and Juan Carlos.

Robert vowed to return again—possibly as a featured "guest chef" at a member special event—and expressed a sincere desire to collaborate with Chef Juan Carlos on a future culinary adventure. We enjoyed hosting Robert and Karen Irvine and sharing with them all that Ford has to offer.

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER...

The Ford Plantation is one of the finest venues in the south-east to host private parties, meetings, and special celebrations. Whether it's a wedding reception, family reunion, or corporate board retreat, we'd love to help you plan your event and showcase your wonderful Club to your family and friends. Calendar dates in popular months book quickly; please contact Director of Events Erika Goodman for more details at 912-756-5725 or egoodman@fordplantation.com.

FITNESS AND SPA

VALENTINE'S MESSAGES

Looking for a relaxing experience to make Valentine's Day wonderful for you and that special someone? The Spa offers Valentine Couples Massages in the same room, with plenty of chocolates, strawberries, champagne, and the aroma of roses. Contact Spa Director Michelle Wadas at spa@fordplantation.com or 912-756-3062 to arrange your appointment for Saturday, February 13, 2010. The cost is \$180 per couple. Gift certificates are also available.

SPA NIGHT—B.F.F.: BACKRUBS, FACIALS, AND FOOT SCRUBS



Catch up with friends and even make new ones during the new B.F.F.: Backrubs, Facials, and Foot Scrubs Spa Night. This fun, relaxing evening includes mini-treatments, refreshments, and outstanding service. This great evening is held the last Wednesday of

every month (October-April), from 6:00–8:00 p.m. Space is limited, so please make your reservation early through the members' only web site. The cost is \$120 per B.F.F.

FITNESS CLASSES

The Ford Plantation offers the following exciting classes—for a complete schedule, please see the members' only web site. We now offer a seasonal monthly rate of \$175 per member per month for unlimited classes.

FUSION FITNESS

This hour-long class combines Pilates-based exercises, yoga, and calisthenics. Stability balls, medicine balls, and your own body resistance will be used to maximize fat burn and tone your entire body. The class was developed to continuously “shock” your muscles and boost your metabolism by changing up the exercises to challenge your muscles in a different way each time you take the class.

PILATES

Pilates is a unique system of stretching and strengthening exercises developed more than ninety years ago by Joseph H. Pilates. Pilates strengthens and tones muscles, improves posture, provides flexibility, and unites the body and mind.

RESIST-A-BALL PILATES

The benefits of stability ball training include core strength, posture, balance, body awareness, flexibility, and even cardiovascular fitness. In this class, you will go through a variety of challenging exercise sequences. It is the ideal non-impact class for all fitness enthusiasts.

SPIN

Spin is a high energy indoor cycling class set to music that simulates riding through a variety of terrains. Spinners personalize the workout based on their fitness level and goals by adjusting the bike's tension.

STRETCH

Stretch class is a no stress workout that focuses on the entire body. This is a must class for those desiring core conditioning work, better posture, lean muscles, and increased flexibility.

TOTAL BODY BLAST

This class will focus on the whole body. The workout, which will include stretching, strength training, cardio, and abs, will give you a great workout and speed up your metabolism. This class is for all levels of fitness and ages.

YOGA

Yoga is an ancient philosophy of life as well as system of exercises that encourages the union of the mind, body, and spirit. The ultimate aim of yoga is to achieve a state of balance and harmony between the mind and body, not just in class, but through the day.

ZUMBA

Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy to follow moves to create a dynamic, exciting, and effective fitness program. The popular routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat.

GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY

Plan to join us at The Spa for a unique, three-day event, which will be held Thursday, March 25–Saturday, March 27, in conjunction with the Men's Invitational Golf Tournament. The Girlfriend Getaway includes power walks, yoga,



relaxing spa services, a nature walk and picnic, a cooking class, and a trunk show. What a wonderful way to spend three days with a

friend, or by yourself for complete relaxation. The cost for this three-day event is \$450. You may join us for just one or two days at the following prices: Thursday, \$200; Friday, \$175; or Saturday, \$100.

EVENTS AT THE FORD PLANTATION

GARDEN CLUB

All members are invited to learn more about gardening and to help preserve the natural and historical beauty of The Ford Plantation by becoming a part of the Garden Club. The Garden Club holds monthly meetings and continues to work on writing a book titled, *Growing at Ford*. (See the House Committee Update article on page 3 for more information.) Member Anne Copp, a Georgia Master Gardener, chairs the Club. Please contact Anne for further details at 912-756-2391, 508-317-8802 (mobile), or anne.copp@yahoo.com. Below is a list of upcoming meetings and topics.

February 12, 2010 Guest Speaker

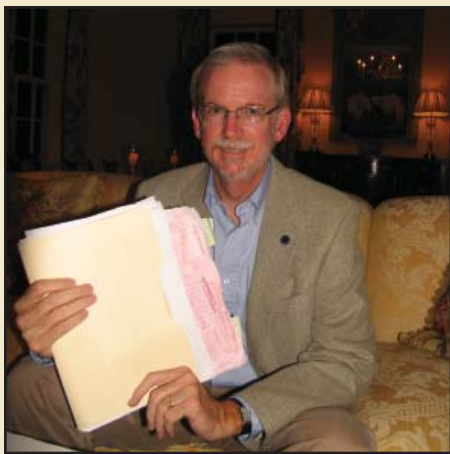
March 12, 2010 Growing at Ford

April 2, 2010 Ford Tour of Gardens

May 7, 2010 Guest Speaker

BOOK CLUB

The Ford Plantation's Book Club is off to a great start. In October 2009, Ford hosted author David Dudley, Ph.D., Chairman of



the Literature and Philosophy Department at Georgia Southern University, who wrote *The Bicycle Man*, the featured book that month. Dr. Dudley explained to members his writing process and the process he went through to get his book published.

Author David Dudley, Ph.D., Chairman of the Literature and Philosophy Department at Georgia Southern University, was a guest at TFP's first Book Club meeting of the season in October 2009. Here, he shows members a manuscript with notes from his editor.

On January 21, 2010, The Ford Plantation will welcome two Georgia Southern University professors as discussion leaders for the meeting

featuring the mystery book *A Most Wanted Man* by John Le Carré. Caren J. Town is Professor of English, where she specializes in contemporary American and young adult literature. Dr. Mary Hadley teaches freshman Composition, English as a Second Language, and Crime Fiction in the Writing and Linguistics Department.

Book Club meets at The Main House at 6:00 p.m., with dinner following the discussion. All TFP members are invited to attend these meetings. Below is the reading list for the remainder of the season.

January 21, 2010

Mystery Night: *A Most Wanted Man* by John Le Carré

February 18, 2010

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

March 18, 2010

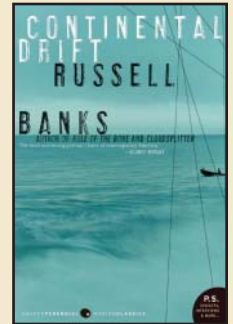
Southern Literary Month: *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories* by Flannery O'Connor

April 15, 2010

It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis

THE BIG READ

The Big Read is a new initiative at TFP to provide members with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book in our community. The book is *Continental Drift* by Russell Banks. This book will be discussed during the last Round Table Dinner of the season on April 14, 2010. The session will be led by David Dudley, Ph.D., of Georgia Southern University.



ROUNDTABLE DINNERS

The Ford Plantation has hosted two Round Table Dinners and Discussions this season and has five more scheduled through April 2010. These discussions focus on current affairs and feature guest speakers from the Georgia Southern University Literature and Philosophy and Political Science Departments. Discussions are held on Wednesday evenings. They will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will continue through dinner. Join us for these lively meetings at The Main House. Mark your calendars for the following dates. Details of each session are on the members' only web site.

January 13, 2010

Howard Keeley, Ph.D., "Queensborough: The Scots-Irish In Pre-Revolutionary Georgia"

January 27, 2010

Richard Pacelle, Ph.D., Chair, Political Science Department, "The Supreme Court"

Please note: This event is rescheduled from November 11, 2009.

February 10, 2010

Irina Khmelko, Ph.D., "Exporting Democracy: Post Soviet States"

March 10, 2010

Hemchand Gossai, Ph.D., "Justice and a Just Society: The Hebrew Prophets for Today"

April 14, 2010

David Dudley, Ph.D., "Humor, Horror, and Humanity: A Writer Confronts Southeast Georgia"

"COFFEE TALK" WITH BOB

Join General Manager Bob Gusella at The Main House at 9:30 a.m. on the following dates for a hot cup of coffee and an informal chat about activities, special projects, and current events at The Ford Plantation. This is a complimentary event.

- Wednesday, February 17, 2010
- Wednesday, March 10, 2010
- Wednesday, April 21, 2010

COMMUNITY CORNER

MILITARY CARE PACKETS PACKING PARTY



Many generous Ford members donated money to provide special care packets to Fort Stewart soldiers deployed overseas. Here, members organize and pack the packets for shipping.

related items. A story on the packing party held on Veterans Day (November 11, 2009), aired on WJCL TV that evening. Additional care packing parties will be held in 2010.

Thanks to the generosity of Ford Plantation members, we have been able to prepare more than 100 care packets for shipping overseas to our troops. Donations for the packets were accepted as part of our Homecoming 2009 festivities. We raised more than \$6,445 for these care packets. The packets include phone cards, food, and travel

ADOPT A SOLDIER CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

If you are interested in communicating with a service member while he or she is deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, we invite you to participate in the "Adopt-a-Soldier" program. Individual cards with the name and email address of a soldier and instructions regarding the program are available in the Club Administration office. Please contact Erika Goodman at egoodman@fordplantation.com or 912-756-5725 for more information.

NEW MEMBER VEHICLE DECALS HAVE ARRIVED

The new 2010/2011 member decals have arrived, and The Ford Plantation Security team has begun issuing them to members. The sleek understated look will differentiate members' vehicles from employee, commercial, and sales agent vehicles. Please take your vehicle(s) to the Security office at the Main Gate at your convenience or call to arrange for Security to come by your home with a new decal (912-756-3668).

TFP FEATURED IN SOUTH MAGAZINE

The Ford Plantation is featured in a 10-page fashion spread in the Dec 09/Jan 10 South Magazine. A pdf of the article is available on the public web site and the members' only web site.

EQUESTRIAN CENTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Equestrian Center hosted a Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 13, 2009. Members and guests enjoyed meeting the "residents" of the barn and reading their bios on their stalls. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cocktails were served. For more information on the Equestrian Center, please contact Susan Benson at 912-756-2239 or stables@fordplantation.com.



Above, Mitch Kornblit, Kathleen Dunagan, and Candra Seley model the latest in equestrian fashion.

Below, Candra and Rex Seley introduce Candra's horse, Smokey, to members and guests.



COMMUNITY CORNER

RSVP NEEDED FOR EVENTS

In order to effectively plan and execute the excellent events our members have come to expect, we ask that you kindly RSVP for all events that you plan to attend through the members' only web site (<http://fordplantation.back9links.com>). Each person who is attending needs to be entered individually. Even if the event is off-site, we need your RSVP. If we do not meet a certain number of reservations for each event, we will cancel the event according to the following schedule: For special events, such as holiday dining, Homecoming, and New Year's Eve, we will cancel five days in advance. For all other events, we will cancel two days prior to the event, unless the event is on a Sunday evening, in which case we will cancel three days in advance. Members who have made a reservation for an event that is cancelled will be notified of the cancellation.

GOLF CART OPERATIONS— SAFETY OUR FIRST PRIORITY

All members are reminded that children are not permitted to operate a golf cart in The Ford Plantation. In accordance with our Club rules, and applicable state and local laws, each operator of a golf cart must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid automobile driver's license. For safety purposes, there are no exceptions to this policy. Thank you for your adherence to this important safety issue.

PROPER PET ETIQUETTE— IT'S A MUST!

Pet owners are reminded that all dogs walked on the common areas of the Plantation shall be on a leash or "under voice command" (for the safety of human beings as well as dogs, a leash is preferred). In addition, pet owners are responsible for picking up after their pets everywhere in the community. This applies throughout The Ford Plantation—other than an owner's private property. We love pets here at Ford, and we love proper pet etiquette, too. Thanks for your cooperation!



Rice has been an integral part of the Plantation since at least 1803 when the property was leased to Georgia Revolutionary Joseph Habersham, Mayor of Savannah in 1792 and founder of the Savannah Steamship Company. Today, members can walk, horseback ride and even play golf alongside the same lush rice fields that existed in Habersham's day. Our rice sheaf design was drawn from a mahogany bedpost carved around

the turn of the 18th century when rice was a symbol of wealth. We have preserved the design as a graphic reminder of the rich history that lives on today at The Ford Plantation.

GM MESSAGE (FROM PAGE 2)

- *Seasonal Operating Hours and Venues* were established in an effort to manage the Club more efficiently and provide a consistent and predictable operating schedule for the membership. "In Season" is now defined as October 1 through April 30, and the "Off Season" runs from May 1 through September 30 each year. Operating hours, staffing levels, and venue availability are adjusted according to the season in order to manage the Club's resources most effectively and still provide a high level of service to the membership on a year-round basis.
- *Reduced Staffing Levels and Departmental Reorganizations* were employed to better reflect operational needs, and these adjustments resulted in a very positive financial performance for the Club. The entire management team adopted and embraced the philosophy of "doing more with less" in 2009, with the expressed goal of improving operational performance while continuing to provide the outstanding Club experiences, events, and amenities that Ford members have come to expect. Once we close the books on 2009, our collective efforts in this regard are expected to yield a favorable variance to budget in excess of \$200,000.

The New Year will be focused on providing more memorable experiences for you and your guests, further refining our operating practices to better serve the needs of the membership, identifying and planning for the capital needs of the Club going forward, and striving to build on the great progress we made last year. The Club's many volunteer committees will be active in 2010, assisting me and the Board with programming and scheduling and ensuring that the needs and best interests of the membership are always at the forefront.

An important "Town Hall Meeting" has been scheduled for Saturday, January 30, at which we will share a summary of the recently completed Membership Survey, discuss some of the projects we've been working on (including the golf course engineering study and master plan and community-wide reserve study), and focus on some of the exciting challenges and opportunities that we see on the horizon at Ford. All members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting, which will begin at 3:00 p.m. at The Clubhouse.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *In Focus*, which is packed full of important Club news and information, as well as images of members and guests making memories at The Ford Plantation while thoroughly enjoying the 2009 holiday season. In addition to offering my best wishes for good health and prosperity in 2010, I look forward to seeing you here at Ford this year making some memories of your own! All the best to you and yours.

—Bob Gusella
General Manager / Chief Operating Officer

FORD PLANTATION PROPERTIES



Cherry Hill 5 Cottage: Great 3 bedroom Cherry Hill Cottage with spectacular views of the 9th green! \$1,150,000



191 Hidden Cove Drive: Stately brick home with slate roof, volume space, 4 bedrooms, custom mahogany den, Ipe porches, gourmet kitchen, and amazing lake and golf course views! \$2,499,000



252 Little Lulu Lane: Gorgeous home with fabulous back porch, must see it to believe it! 3 bedrooms, den, and elevator. Recently reduced to \$2,500,000



Lot 5 McAllister Landing Drive: 2.25 acres, 390 front feet of marsh and Oyster Island views, looking out to the Ogeechee River beyond. Eager seller! \$295,000



Lot 97 Belted Kingfisher Lane: 2.5 acres, 300 front feet on Lake Sterling, only lot available on Lake Sterling! \$550,000



Lot 7 Captains Walk Drive: Great Lake Clara lot with a dock already constructed, 120 feet on the lake. Recently reduced to \$575,000

For more information, or to see these or other Ford Plantation properties, please contact **Chip Dolan** (912-429-7107 or chipdolan2002@aol.com) or **Liz Pell** (912-547-3978 or epell@fordplantation.com).

COMMUNITY CORNER

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ADAM ANGHILANTE

Adam Anghilante is a fishing guide and ODP assistant who helps with fishing trips, sporting clays, and naturalist excursions, as well as Ogeechee Outfitters and marina operations. He is a valued employee who has been with TFP since September 2004.

Adam is instrumental in assisting with all of the fishing, hunting, and nature programs at TFP. In addition, he is responsible for the day-to-day retail operations of Ogeechee Outfitters, as well as the boat docks and overall appearance of the building and grounds.

Adam, an experienced and avid bike rider, has established a new program at TFP this season. He leads a variety of bike rides both at Ford and throughout the Low Country for members and guests who would like to explore the area on two wheels. More information on the program is available on the members' only web site (<http://fordplantation.back9links.com>) or by contacting Adam at marina@fordplantation.com or 912-547-5849.



Adam Anghilante (left) of the Outdoor Pursuits Department has been with Ford for more than five years. In this photo, Adam, member Chris Lawson (center), and Ford Naturalist Mike Womble catch a gator measuring 8 feet 2 inches long and weighing 180 pounds. The gator was moved from Lake Sterling to another home. Photo by Ellen Lawson.

“Adam is a great friend and a terrific employee,” says Fuzzy Davis, Director of Outdoor Pursuits. “He is extremely creative and focused. Adam is also a detail oriented person, which is greatly appreciated in our department. He also takes the reins when he sees an opportunity and will create his own activities, as he did this year with his bicycling program. I know that many Ford members as well as staff appreciate the superb job that Adam has done, and we are lucky to have him.”

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- Sat., Jan. 30..... Town Hall Meeting, 3pm, Clubhouse
- Sat., Feb. 6 Groundhog Cross Country Golf Event
- Sat., Feb. 6 Groundhog Day Pig Roast with Live Music, 6:30pm, The Clubhouse
- Sun., Feb. 7 Super Bowl Party, 5pm, Marina
- Sat., Feb. 13 Valentine Couples Massages, The Spa
- Sat., Feb. 13 Daedalus Cellars Wine Dinner, 6pm, The Main House
- Sun., Feb. 14..... Valentine’s Day Dinner, 6pm, Clubhouse
- Mon., Feb. 15 President’s Day, Dining Facilities Open
- Sat., Feb. 20 SCAD Artist-in-Residence Workshop: Painting on Silk, 10am, Marina
- Mon., Feb 22–Tues., Feb. 23 Photo Adventure to Charleston, SC
- Sat., Feb. 27 Wing and Clay Tournament, 7am, Dorchester Hunting Preserve
- Sat., Mar. 6–Sun., Mar. 7 Fitness Tennis Clinic Weekend
- Fri., Mar. 12–Sat., Mar. 13...Men’s and Ladies’ Member/Member Golf Tournament
- Fri., Mar. 19..... The England Golf Tournament
- Sat., Mar. 20..... SCAD Artist-in-Residence Workshop: Chipped China—An Artful Garden, 10am, Marina
- Sat., Mar. 20..... Block Party, 6 pm, McCallister Point
- Wed., Mar. 24 Ladies’ Cocktails, 5pm, The Main House
- Thurs., March 25–Sat., Mar. 27 Men’s Invitational Golf Tournament
- Thurs., March 25–Sat., Mar. 27 Girlfriend Getaway
- Fri., Apr. 2–Sun., Apr. 4 Easter Weekend, featuring Ford Tour of Gardens, Good Friday Fish Fry, Kids Nature Camp, Tennis Club Championship, Egg Decorating, Pony Rides, Easter Parade, Easter Buffet, Kids Easter Egg Hunt
- Mon., Apr. 5–Thurs., Apr. 8 Kids Sports Camp
- Wed., Apr. 7 Bridge Banquet, 5pm, The Main House
- Tues., Apr. 13–Thurs., Apr. 15... Ladies’ Invitational Golf Tournament
- Wed., Apr. 14 “The Big Read” Round Table Dinner, 6pm, The Main House
- Sat., Apr. 17 SCAD Artist-in-Residence Workshop: Advanced Watercolor, 10am, Marina
- Sat., Apr. 17 Town Hall Meeting, 3pm, Clubhouse
- Mon., Apr. 19–Thurs., Apr. 22..... Photo Adventure to Smoky Mountains
- Fri., Apr. 23 Hook and Slice Tournament

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