



Our Sporting Life

MARCH/APRIL 2010



A publication for members and friends of The Ford Plantation

FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

FROM THE GM'S OFFICE

Following the coldest and wettest winter in decades, signs of spring are emerging here in Richmond Hill. We look forward to having members and guests back to TFP for our exciting and event-filled months of March and April, and our wonderful Easter Weekend family celebration. Please refer to our web site and event calendars often for updated information about all the goings-on we've planned for you here at Ford.

As President Weil points out in his article, spring also ushers in the golf and sporting season with our popular Member/Member and Men's and Ladies' Invitational Golf Tournaments, the annual Hook and Slice Tournament, special Outdoor Pursuits offerings, Spa and Fitness events, and much more. The golf course has withstood an especially harsh winter, and we all look forward to seeing it green up with the arrival of warmer weather.



Speaking of the golf course, most members are well aware that the Club has commissioned planning and engineering experts to assist us in fully understanding our course infrastructure issues and in making recommendations for future enhancements to the course as part of a comprehensive master planning effort.

Renowned golf course architects Pete Dye and Tim Liddy have visited the property several times to evaluate our current conditions in order to propose recommendations for improvement. Ray Pittman, of Savannah-based Thomas & Hutton Engineering, has been leading the effort to survey and map the golf course and to propose designs for future drainage and irrigation improvements. These professionals have been working closely with the Golf and Greens Committees, the Board, and Club management as we study our existing conditions and make plans to ensure our course is best prepared for the next 20 years of golf at TFP.

Golf Course Superintendent Nelson Caron delivered an informative presentation explaining our current golf course issues during the first Town Hall Meeting of the year in late January. More than 100 members were in attendance here at Ford, and another 20 or so viewed the presentation over the internet as we hosted a live "webinar" for the benefit of our out-of-town members (one member couple watched the presentation in Argentina)!

(continued on page 14)

Cover photo courtesy of Ford Naturalist Mike Womble. Mike captured spring in bloom by the gazebo at McCallister Point.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I write this note to you, it is once again raining as we endure the longest, wettest winter on record here in the low country. Hopefully, by the time you read this, spring will have come and we will once again be enjoying the great beauty here at The Ford Plantation.

Last week the Wing and Clay Tournament was held at Dorchester Shooting Preserve, followed by a Wild Game Dinner at the Oyster House. The tournament was well attended in spite of some participants dropping out due to flights south being cancelled, and a refurbished Dorchester was a great host. What made it so very special, though, was the unique and creative dinner that James, Chef Juan Carlos, and the staff provided later that evening for the event participants and more than sixty other members and guests. The cooking was done completely over wood burning fires—both in the Oyster House ovens and outside—and the menu was extraordinary. I am constantly reminded how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated staff who do so much extra to make our lives here so enjoyable. I would like to give a special "thank you" to Juan Carlos and his culinary team for their constant creativity, and I hope this dinner becomes a yearly event.



Other events at The Ford Plantation will soon be in full swing. In golf, we will have the Men's and Ladies' Member/Member, The England, and the Men's Invitational in March, and the Ladies' Invitational and the Hook and Slice in April. Fuzzy tells me the redfish are biting now and the spring season is looking strong. Outdoor Pursuits is offering many fun and educational activities, such as fly casting and fly tying lessons. Bicycle tours with Adam, both on the Plantation and off, are on the program. Our Naturalist, Mike Womble, is offering many walks and hikes that include bird and animal spotting and photography, as well as photography lessons.

The Savannah Music Festival starts March 18, and this year's program lineup is exceptional and not to be missed. We'll celebrate an early Easter Weekend this year, and the many family-oriented events should be fun for everyone. Horseback rides, the Parade, and the Easter Egg Hunt are just some of the things that members and their children and grandchildren can look forward to.

(continued on page 14)

CLUB NEWS

HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

GROWING AT FORD

The Garden Club has been working on the planting schedule for the flower beds and vegetable garden for the spring and summer months. This year, they will be working towards increasing the perennials and bushes in some locations. At The Main House, we will be using soft colors to support the weddings and events we will be having this season.



Our new big effort is the vegetable garden at Edsel's Experimental Farm in Silk Hope, for which we have ordered very interesting varieties

of heirloom tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, melons, okra, beans, beets, lettuce, squash, and flowers to be used by TFP's culinary team. The raised beds were built by Ford's talented maintenance team and will be planted in March.

Please add to your Easter Weekend plans our first Ford Plantation Tour of Gardens. This tour will include six to eight gardens and will offer suggestions for people to consider for their own gardens. We will provide our new *Growing at Ford* book as a reference for people to learn about the plants growing in the garden tour.

HOMEcoming 2010

Denise Thompson and her committee have selected the theme "Old Savannah" for Homecoming this fall. There are many creative ways to incorporate the city's beautiful squares into the theme and highlight through a musical interlude the nostalgic music of Johnny Mercer. Please contact Denise if you would like to give her a hand in the planning of this wonderful event.

MEMBER SURVEY

The Food and Beverage team was delighted to see the high degree of member satisfaction with our food and beverage operation. Quality of food and service got high marks, and we appreciate the efforts of Food and Beverage Director James

Scott and Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez and their staff to consistently deliver an interesting variety of food and attentive service.

In the individual remarks section, we received many suggestions and are always looking for ways to increase member satisfaction. To that end, we have already implemented some improvements. We are now enjoying weekly changes to the dinner menu, and we are offering the bar menu daily beginning at 5:00 p.m. We are going to provide a value priced breakfast at The Main House to encourage greater usage.

We are going to shift our wine inventory to 40 percent of the total in wines under \$60 and increase the number of wines by the glass under \$10. In a continuing effort to streamline the cost efficiencies of our spring and summer lunch service, we will offer a menu at Lake Dye Grill from which one can call The Clubhouse for delivery to be enjoyed poolside. We will also be placing a beverage machine on the LDG porch.

EVENTS

Susan Weiss reports that while we continue to get good attendance at most of our dining events, we must pare down our menus because our advance reservations requirements are seldom met. This is unfortunate, since we generally do meet the minimums, but not until the day before. When planning your own social calendar, please consider our Club event calendar to help maximize member attendance. Please RSVP through the members' only web site if you plan to attend an event.

We are gearing up for Easter Weekend festivities, and it promises to be at least as much fun as last year. Start to plan now for your decorated golf cart entry!!

Everyone will continue to have opportunities to enjoy our Oyster Roasts, Round Table Dinners, and theme dinners. And it's not too late to sign up for the Smoky Mountain Photo Adventure, from Monday, April 19 through Thursday, April 22. Please see the members' only web site for more information.

PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT

Chris Howard's staff has built a new brick handicapped entrance to The Spa, and it looks lovely.

(continued on page 13)

THE FORD PLANTATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- William and May Rockwood, Lot 66, 1621 Dublin Drive
- Cliff Draughn, designated member by Sri Srikanthan
- Stanley and Gail McDermott, Lot 254, 299 Ford Place
- Carlos Gonzalez and Maria Larrazabal, Lot 65
- Douglas and Nancy Perry, Lot 170

GOLF CLINICS AT FORD

The Ford Plantation professional golf staff is offering instruction to lower those scores on the course. Men's and Ladies' Golf Clinics are held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for all ladies and at 2:00 p.m. for all men. A 9-hole match will take place at 3:00 p.m. after the Men's Clinic. All participants should meet at the driving range for an hour of group instruction.



Left, TFP Head Golf Pro C.W. Canfield helps Betsy Prutzman feel the proper swing plane.

Below, Betsy Prutzman, Chris Wachowicz, Linda Zerbe, and TFP Head Golf Pro C.W. Canfield at a recent Ladies' Golf Clinic.



COUPLES' GOLF SERIES

The Couples' Tournament Series has reached the midway point—after four events, Bill and Doranne Coad lead the way with 30 points. Not far behind are Wayne and Susie Morgan with 27 points. In third place are Bill and Sharon Maloney with 18 points. John and Nelly Greenan and Bill and Denise Thompson are both tied for fourth with 17 points apiece. Rounding out the top six spots are Peter and Susan Stanley with 13 points. With two more events in the series, it is anyone's game, and we look forward to a close competition.

NEW USGA DECISION ON GROOVES

The golf staff hopes this note finds you well. I've had several questions surrounding the new USGA groove specifications as it relates to playing the game and handicap entry. Here is a brief description:

The new specifications (USGA Decision 4-1/1) reduce the volume and sharpness of the grooves on irons, fairway woods, and hybrids with lofts equal to or greater than 25 degrees. The desired effect is to reward driving accuracy by reducing the amount of backspin on shots played from the rough.

Manufacturers can continue to market clubs with grooves that do not conform to the 2010 specifications through December 31, 2010. Thereafter, all clubs offered by manufacturers must conform to the new groove rules. Retailers will be able to continue selling pre-2010 groove specification clubs for as long as supplies last.

Elite Players (Tour Professionals) must play under the new groove specifications as of January 1 of this year. This includes the PGA, LPGA, Nationwide, Champions Tour, and any Masters participant.

Expert Amateurs and Club Professionals may play with pre-2010 equipment for the foreseeable future. Any Amateur or Club Professional who qualifies for a PGA Tour must use conforming grooves.

College Players are unlikely to need clubs with the new grooves prior to January 1, 2014, when the NCAA intends to implement the new condition of competition. State Golf Associations are also unlikely to implement the decision prior to January 1, 2014.

Recreational Golfers can continue to use their pre-2010 grooves for the purpose of posting scores for handicap, as these grooves are permitted for recreational play through at least 2023.

I hope this information helps. If you have any questions, stop by or call the shop for more details. See you on the course!

—C.W. Canfield
Director of Golf

THE BIG CHILL: TFP AND THE SOUTHEAST REGION SHIVERS FROM THE COLDEST AND WETTEST WEATHER IN A DECADE

This winter has brought extraordinary weather to The Ford Plantation. As a matter of fact, it has been the coldest winter in the Low Country in more than 10 years. Many areas have not seen this duration of cold temperatures—15–20 degrees below average—in decades, including Richmond Hill.

Figure 1 illustrates the large differences in temperatures from 2009 and 2010 compared to the 30-year average in our area. We can clearly see that the 2010 “high” temperatures are well below average for the months of January and February. The difference between the 30-year average high and the 2010 actual high is greater than 10 degrees, especially in the month of February. We see the same trend when looking at the “low” temperatures compared to the 30 year average, up to a seven degree deviation from the norm.

In the world of turfgrass management, a deviation of 2–3 degrees from the average numbers is significant, and we experienced 7–10 degree deviations! WOW 1: That’s a big deal in my world.

Furthermore, 2009 has also been one of the wettest on record. In 2009, we accumulated approximately 65 inches of rainfall, a number not approached in the last ten years, and 16 inches more than the 30 year average (Figure 2). WOW # 2: That’s a lot of rain! The Georgia drought is officially over.

As the calendar inches closer and closer to April (and hopefully warmer weather), we will know much more about any winter or rain related injury to our ultra-dwarf bermudagrass greens and bermudagrass fairways. In the meantime, we are in the process of testing the health of various turfgrass areas by taking plugs from questionable greens and fairways.

These plugs are placed indoors in a sunny window. The plugs help us determine if the bermudagrass plants will “wake up” and come out of dormancy when placed in a warmer, temperature-controlled environment. Several plugs were harvested from three fairways to test (Figure 3). Fhew-wee! These plugs look like they are going to come out of dormancy just fine. Notice the new green tissue growing from the dormant bermudagrass stems in the picture.

You too can test the winter hardiness of your centipedegrass or St. Augustine grass lawns. First, harvest an ample size plug with a shovel, ensuring you don’t break off the roots. Second, place it in a container near a warm window. Make sure to keep the plug moist and within two weeks you should know if your grass has made it through this challenging winter. Good luck!!!

On behalf of the Golf Course Maintenance Department, thanks, and we look forward to seeing you out on the course this spring.

—Nelson Caron
Head Golf Course Superintendent

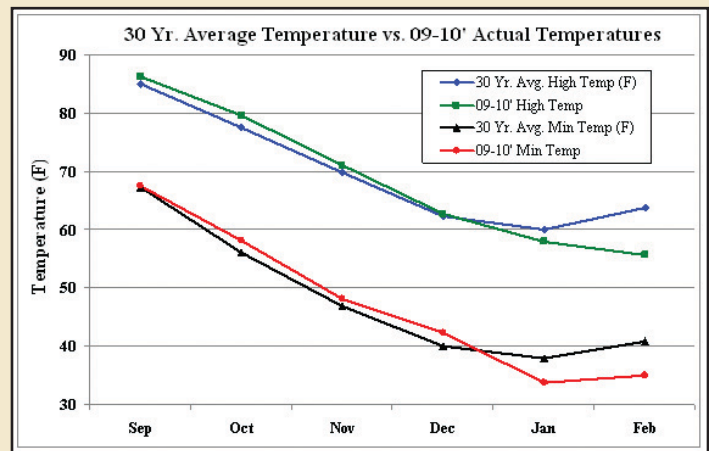


Figure 1. Thirty year average compared to the 2009 and 2010 high and low temperatures at the Ford Plantation. (Data from georgiaweather.net.)

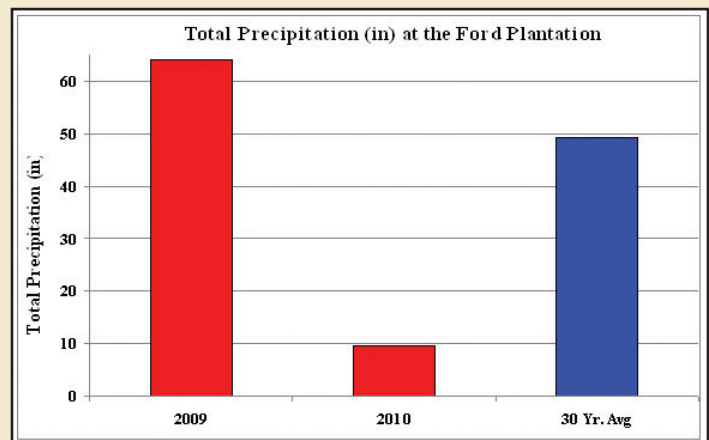


Figure 2. Total precipitation at the Ford Plantation from 2000 to 2010. (Data from georgiaweather.net.)



Figure 3. Plugs taken from fairway locations showing grass greening up under warm temperatures.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

WING AND CLAY TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Fourth Annual Wing and Clay Tournament, held at Dorchester Shooting Preserve on Saturday, February 27, was a fun day of quail and clay shooting for all participants. The tournament combines quail hunting with sporting clays to make for a challenging day of shooting. Congratulations to member Paul Googe and his guest Dale Bouchillion for shooting 80 quail and having clay scores of 82/100 and 92/100 for a combined total of 254. Congratulations to second place winners Jim Hunter and his guest John Umloff for their combined score of 185. "Dorchester and their staff did a fantastic job of hosting the Wing and Clay," said Fuzzy Davis. "We look forward to our tournament in 2011!" Shooters and their guests also enjoyed a great Wild Game Dinner feast under a rising full moon at The Oyster House that evening.



Above, Paul Googe (right) and his guest Dale Bouchillion are presented with the first-place trophy in the Fourth Annual Wing and Clay Tournament. Right, Paul Googe takes aim.



Jim Hunter (left) and his guest John Umloff accept their second place award in the Fourth Annual Wing and Clay Tournament.



ODP CLINICS

Outdoor Pursuits Clinics are held once a month on a Thursday 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. For more information, please call 912–756–5886 or email marina@fordplantation.com.

Mark your calendars for the next ODP Clinic, Intro to Fly Tying, on Thursday, April 8. Learn the basics of fly tying by learning some basic fresh water patterns. No prior tying experience is needed. These patterns could be used in TFP lakes to catch giant bass! Don Kowtko, a fly tying instructor from Hilton Head, will lead this session.



Frank Mirabello (left) and Jeff Scott learned some great gun cleaning tips from TFP's gun maintenance expert, Director of Security Matt Gaskin, at an Outdoor Pursuits Clinic held Thursday, January 21 at Ogeechee Outfitters. Matt is extremely knowledgeable in gun safety, maintenance, and shooting and was able to share that knowledge at the clinic.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

PHOTO ADVENTURE: DARIEN, GEORGIA

January 2010 was one of the coldest and wettest in the past 20 years. We had to postpone our photo adventure to Darien several times; however, we managed to get a Saturday afternoon that looked, on paper that is, like a good day to go. Doranne Coad, Susie Morgan, Linda Zerbe, and Sharon Maloney were truly troopers on this day. The temperatures started to drop by early afternoon. It was in the upper '40s, and the sun decided to vanish, so photography got a little tougher. Our group continued to explore the small quaint town and produced several really nice photographs.

One of the highlights of the trip was dinner. All of the lady's husbands met us at a little riverside restaurant named "Skipper's." We had great seafood and barbeque, along with wonderful story telling and jokes, which made the whole trip a success. Our next off-site photo adventure is to Amelia Island, FL on Monday, March 15. Amelia Island and the town of Fernandina Beach is the birthplace of modern shrimping. We will be taking photos of the beautiful waterfront and the historical district. The cost is \$100 per person and includes lunch. We will leave from The Main House at 8:30 a.m. Register for this trip on the members' only web site.



Doranne Coad took this photo of a shrimp boat during a photo adventure to Darien, Georgia. Our next photo adventure is to Amelia Island, FL on Monday, March 15.

UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

Recently we have been seeing a few birds here at Ford that most of us associate more with coastal waters. The one that stands out is the brown pelican. Several have been spotted over the past few months in and around our lakes. It is not uncommon for these fishers to move up river in search of food. When the temperature drops the way it has this year, water temps cool down dramatically. This will cause a vast majority of baitfish to move south or to go deep out of the reach of the pelican's dives. They are then forced to look for food elsewhere. Most of the birds spotted here have been juvenile birds. They are as large as the adults but don't yet have the grey and white plumage of their parents. These young birds tend to be brown and white.



Unfortunately, a few of these young birds have been found dead in our waters. During these cold spells they become weak from not feeding properly and lose their ability to oil their feathers, which

helps them float but mainly keeps them warm. With wet feathers they can suffer from hypothermia and eventually die. That is what has happened to a few of the young birds that we have seen here.

The good news is that both of the birds that we recovered were banded with a small numbered band on the leg. Bird banding is very important in the study of birds' movements, survival, and behaviors. Since 1904, approximately 60 million birds representing hundreds of species have been banded in North America, of which about 4 million bands have been reported or recovered.

The data from these encounters is used in monitoring populations, setting hunting regulations, restoring endangered species, and studying the effects of environmental contaminants. Results from banding efforts support national and international bird conservation programs like Partners in Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Wetlands for the Americas.

Our brown pelicans had been banded in mid July on the coast of North Carolina, when they were still in the nest, just about ready to fly. I have reported this information to the North American Bird Banding Program so that the information can be entered into their database so that we can learn more about these wonderful birds.

—Mike Womble, Ford Naturalist

EVENTS AT THE FORD PLANTATION

FOREST CITY GUN CLUB FUN SHOOT

Ford members and guests had a terrific time at a fun shoot at Forest City Gun Club in Savannah on February 4. Forest City, founded in 1883, is the oldest continually operated gun club in the U.S. One of the highlights was the 60 target flurry where three shooters shoot at 60 thrown targets in just two minutes. The group also shot the 100 target sporting clay course, which is set amidst a beautiful Low Country landscape.



From left, Jim Hunter, Jessie Watkins, Wayne Thomas, Ralph Eagle, and Bill Maloney enjoy the fun shoot at Forest City Gun Club in Savannah.



Above, Liz Bartlett takes aim at the fun shoot at Forest City Gun Club in Savannah on February 4.

TURKEY HILL PLANTATION FUN SHOOT MARCH 23

Our next fun shoot will be at Turkey Hill Plantation in Ridgeland, SC, on Tuesday, March 23. Turkey Hill Plantation is home to some of the finest wing shooting in the south. It is a private plantation with minimal access to the public. The Turkey Hill Plantation Fun Shoot will consist of a five stand round of 100 sporting clays and lunch. We will leave Ogeechee Outfitters at 8:30 a.m. and carpool to Turkey Hill. The cost is \$85 per shooter. Please sign up on the members' only web site or come down to Ogeechee Outfitters to register. For more information on Turkey Hill Plantation, please visit www.turkeyhillplantation.com.

TRADITIONAL OYSTER ROASTS AT FORD

Throughout the season, The Ford Plantation hosts traditional Oyster Roasts featuring fresh oysters and a buffet of traditional Southern Fare. Here, Line Chef Blake Beason checks on some oysters during an Oyster Roast in February. The oysters are covered with a wet cloth until they start "milking" and pop open. Then they are served hot on our oyster tables.



EVENTS AT THE FORD PLANTATION

BIKE RIDES WITH ADAM

Outdoor Pursuits staff member Adam Anghilante, an experienced and avid bike rider, has scheduled 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. This is a new program at Ford this season. Adam recently led members on bike rides in the Low Country. Here is his account.

The Low Country is rich in history and has breathtaking scenery. McQueen's Island is no exception to that rule. Once a part of a 17.7-mile railroad track that took Savannah families to Tybee Island, it is now home to The Old Savannah-Tybee Railroad Historic & Scenic Multi-Purpose Trail.

Caren Gagliano, Susan Stanley, and I took in the scenic views of the Savannah River, large expanses of marshland, and the wildlife it offers. The six-mile section, constructed of oyster shells and limestone, is an amazing way to see a part of the Low Country on two wheels.

Another amazing Low Country riding location is Jekyll Island. Designed specifically for cycling and offering 20 miles of paved biking trails with views of the ocean, beach, golf course, marsh, and dunes, one can imagine it is a bikers' paradise.

Mother Nature was looking out for us on our two trips to the island last November. Divided into two trips, Caren Gagliano, Susan Stanley, Dot Watkins, Valerie Foradas, and her cousin Susan Foradas all enjoyed the blue skies and 75-degree temperatures.



From left, Dot Watkins, Caren Gagliano, and Susan Stanley take a break during a bike ride on Jekyll Island.

COOKING CLASS WITH JUAN CARLOS

On Wednesday, February 17, The Ford Plantation hosted a cooking class and luncheon at The Main House for Ford ladies and guests from Fort Stewart. Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez shared some of his culinary secrets while preparing a delicious three-course meal, which participants then enjoyed for lunch.



FOOD AND BEVERAGE

ORIGINAL OYSTER HOUSE STOVE USED

The original wood-burning stove in The Oyster House was recently brought out of retirement by Executive Chef Juan Carlos and his culinary team, who used it to prepare a special wild game dinner for several members. The meal featured fish caught in local waters; venison chili; duck, pheasant, and quail potpie; and apple crisp. The event was a precursor to Ford's special Wild Game Dinner, held after the Wing and Clay Tournament on Saturday, February 27.



Ford Plantation members and guests enjoy a meal cooked by Ford's culinary team on the original wood-burning stove in The Oyster House.

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER...

The Ford Plantation is one of the finest venues in the southeast 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.

THE FORD MARKET EXPANDS ITS OFFERINGS

The Ford Plantation culinary team is proud to announce that it has expanded The Ford Market to include various specials every week, such as homemade bread, artisanal cheese, prosciutto, and soups. These specials will be available on the evenings The Clubhouse is open (Wednesday-Sunday).

A list of specials will be included in the *Weekly Update*, listed on the Food & Beverage page of members' only web site, and distributed throughout the grounds. Call The Clubhouse to reserve your order (912-756-7263), or stop by The Clubhouse to pick up your selection.

All members are reminded that they are eligible to buy products from The Club, such as fresh seafood, steaks, free range chicken, produce, and wine, at cost plus 20 percent. This allows you to purchase the best quality products available at a final cost about the same or better than you currently purchase from local grocery stores and markets. Contact Food and Beverage Director James Scott at jscott@fordplantation.com or 912-547-4115 for more information or to place an order.



Derek Benoit, Sous Chef I (above), makes the delicious soups available through The Ford Market. Shawn Hinson, Sous Chef II (left), is Ford's resident bread-making expert.



FITNESS AND SPA

SPA NIGHT—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.

KIDS SPORTS CAMP APRIL 5–8

Kids ages 6–12 are invited to join us for Kids Sports Camp. Each day, the camp will focus on multi-sport skills and general conditioning. Participants will play various sports, including tennis, basketball, and volleyball. The variety of exercises and drills will challenge kids' bodies and minds. Camp runs April 5–8, 2010 and August 18–21, 2010, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. each day. Campers can participate on a daily basis. The cost is \$150/week or \$40/day.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER INDULGENCE DAY MAY 8

This day is designed for togetherness and relaxation. The day will include massages, facials, manicures, and pedicures, as well as lunch prepared by

Executive Chef Juan Carlos and catered on the balcony of The Spa. The cost is \$300 for both mother and daughter for half-day services and

\$500 for both mother and daughter for full-day services. It is available Saturday, May 8, 2010 (Mother's Day weekend) or any other time by advance appointment.



GIRLFRIEND GETAWAY

Busy schedules, social engagements, work, and other commitments can fill your entire calendar. Why not take a weekend to unwind and spend quality time with your girlfriends, enjoying the amenities The Ford Plantation has to offer. The Girlfriend Getaway is a long weekend with an emphasis on health, wellness, nature, nutrition, and exercise. The package includes spa treatments, a spa lunch, a cooking class, a nature hike, a session with a nutritionist, yoga, exercise, and more. You will enjoy the gracious accommodations and world-class service you have come to expect from The Ford Plantation. The event will be held March 25–27, 2010, the



same weekend as the Men's Invitational Golf Tournament. Bring your special friends, daughters, aunts, cousins—anyone you consider a girlfriend—and enjoy a relaxing yet invigorating weekend.

A Trunk Show featuring clothes, jewelry, and art will be held at The Spa, and Reed Crockett from Babor Skin Care will be available for skin analysis all three days. The cost for this three-day event is \$450. You may join us for just one day at the following prices: Thursday, \$200; Friday, \$250; or Saturday, \$100. These prices do not include accommodations, private lessons, any additional Spa services, or GA state sales tax. For more information, please contact Michelle Wadas at spa@fordplantation.com or 912–756–3062. Please register through the members' only web site at <http://fordplantation.back9links.com>.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 25, 2010

9:00 a.m. Yoga
10:30 a.m. ... Cooking class with Executive Chef Juan Carlos
12:00 p.m. Lunch at The Main House
1:30 p.m. Wellness Class
2:45 p.m. Break
3:00 p.m. Pilates
4:15 p.m. Afternoon Tea

Friday, March 26, 2010

9:00 a.m. Pilates
10:30 a.m. ... Spa services* (please make appointment)
11:45 a.m. ... Spa Lunch
1:30 p.m. Spa Services* (please make appointment)
2:45 p.m. Break
3:00 p.m. Yoga
4:15 p.m. Afternoon Tea

Saturday, March 27, 2010

9:00 a.m. Yoga
10:30 a.m. ... Nature Hike
12:00 p.m. Picnic Lunch
1:30 p.m. River Cruise

**A facial and massage are included in the package. Please make an appointment in advance with Michelle Wadas (spa@fordplantation.com or 912–756–3062).*

COMMUNITY CORNER

THE EGGS HAVE ARRIVED AT EDESEL'S EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Our hens at Edsel's Experimental Farm in Silk Hope have begun laying fresh eggs. The hens, which arrived last July as chicks via the US Postal Service, are now mature and laying fresh eggs for use in Ford's house made breads, desserts, and breakfasts. The Chicken Barn is part of our overall plan to grow hard-to-find or expensive produce items in-house as a complement to the wonderful ingredients that go into our food and beverage preparations. This spring, we will be planting a variety of plants,



including tomatoes, lettuces, peppers, collard greens, okra, eggplant, and more. We're excited about our little experimental farm, and the opportunity to bring some aspects of "plantation life" back to TFP.

Executive Chef Juan Carlos Rodriguez proudly displays the first eggs from Ford's chickens at Edsel's Experimental Farm.



The chickens at Edsel's Experimental Farm are now laying fresh eggs for use in Ford's house made breads, desserts, and breakfasts. The chicks arrived via US Postal Service last July (inset).



PHOTO ADVENTURE: FRANCIS BEIDLER FOREST



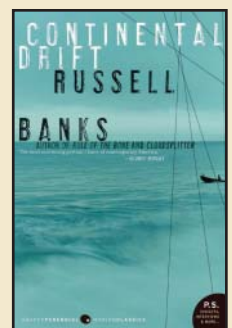
Located in the Low Country of South Carolina is a magical place known as Four Holes Swamp. It contains 45,000 acres of black water sloughs, lakes, bottomland hardwoods, and cypress swamps. The Audubon Society has purchased more than 15,000 acres to preserve some of the oldest known virgin stands of Bald Cypress. Some of the trees are more than 1,000 years old, with the oldest known at 1,500 years and counting. Wildlife and birdlife alike abound here. With a 1.75 mile boardwalk through the heart of the swamp, visitors can really get a feel and understanding of the importance of this area.

Come along with Ford Naturalist Mike Womble as we explore the photographic opportunities of the Francis Beidler Forest. If you are not a photographer, bring your binoculars and join the hunt for the golden yellow Prothonotary warblers, a must see at the preserve. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 13, 2010. This is an all day event that includes transportation and lunch. We have room for four people, so sign up early. The fee is \$50 per person.



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.



COMMUNITY CORNER

BRIDGE CLUB

The Ford Plantation Bridge Club meets every Tuesday night at Lake Dye Grill at 5:00 p.m. All members are invited to participate in this duplicate bridge game, which is not only a great social pastime, but also a wonderful way to keep sharp! 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. Please contact Doranne Coad with any questions: 912-756-4458 or dandbcoad@hotmail.com.



From left, Dario Quiros, Bob Zerbe, Bill Coad, and Linda Zerbe enjoy a game of bridge at Lake Dye Grill.

HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE (FROM PAGE 3) THE FORD PLANTATION FUND

The House Committee and the Board have agreed to set up a private fund whose assets will be managed by The Savannah Community Foundation. The funds that are raised periodically will be used to support various projects within the community. An example would be the funds that were raised to "Support the Troops." This will enable members to make these donations tax deductible. A separate committee will be established to oversee the disbursement of these funds.

F&B OPERATIONS

The entire Ford Plantation management team and staff have adopted the mantra, "do more with less." The House Committee shares this attitude. We appreciate your acceptance of fewer hours of service at our dining facilities, and we are proud that we have been able to hold our event prices steady and continue to deliver consistent quality and excellent service.

Spring is finally upon us, and we hope you enjoy the balance of the season with all the great activities that are planned.

—Wendy Dayton
House Committee Chair

EQUESTRIAN CENTER SKILLS CLINICS

The Ford Plantation Equestrian Center hosts monthly clinics for members. Trainer Kathy Faulk helps members improve their Dressage and Eventing skills. Most of Kathy's current students are actively competitive in Eventing, and a high percentage of them have qualified for area II/III Championships and the American Eventing Championships. Kathy has trained with many clinicians in both fields and has taken useful information from many of them and applied it to her own teaching style. For more information, please contact Susan Benson at 912-756-2239 or stables@fordplantation.com.



Mary Kay Jans rides her new horse, Popcorn.



The Equestrian Center offers members and guests riding instruction and escorted rides. Here, Joan Cobble (right) and her sister Judy are going for a trail ride on Ford Plantation horses.

CLUB NEWS

GM LETTER (FROM PAGE 2)

In an effort to provide every Ford member with the opportunity to hear from Nelson and better understand some of the challenges he and his crew face on a daily basis, we have produced a DVD of his presentation—included with this newsletter mailing—so that you can watch and learn in the comfort of your own home.

The Ford Plantation will continue as the social destination of choice for members this spring, with a wide range of events planned here at the Club. Easter Weekend—our most popular spring event—arrives early this year during the first weekend in April, and we look forward to seeing extended families and friends enjoying the many activities planned during this multi-day celebration. On a monthly basis, we host theme dinners on select Sundays, Oyster Roasts on scheduled Fridays, and, of course, Cookies & Cocktails in The Main House and happy hours and wonderful dining in The Clubhouse each week from Wednesday through Sunday.

“Foodies” will want to save the date now for the Joullian Vineyards Wine Dinner set for Friday, April 9—an event certain to showcase the best in food and wine pairings. A special dining event showcasing the Equestrian Center is also in the works for mid-April! Folks love to eat, drink, and be merry here at TFP... and who can blame them? Please make plans to join us for some fun at your Club.

Your Boards of Directors—for both the Club and the Association—have been hard at work addressing issues in need of attention and responding to member suggestions. Currently, these governing Boards have been reviewing the Membership Survey and initial input from the recent Asset Reserve Study, in order to prioritize the needs and desires of the Club and community and appropriately plan for the future.

Two high-profile Club improvements will be evident very soon as new pool furniture arrives at the Lake Dye Grill, and, later this summer, The Clubhouse Bar receives an updated layout and new furnishings. Look for additional enhancements around the property

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (FROM PAGE 2)

All in all, spring once again appears to be one of the best and most active times here at The Ford Plantation. With four houses under construction and several new building applications being discussed, the future looks to be busy and bright. Come down and participate and enjoy our unique sporting life.

There is no place like home!

Warmest *(please!)* regards,

Bill Weil, President



Many Ford Plantation members support and enjoy the annual Savannah Music Festival. This year's event is from March 18–April 3. For more information, please visit www.savannahmusicfestival.org.

throughout the summer as timing and funding allow. On the POA side, a lot of effort is being focused on improving the appearance of the overall community through the development and enforcement of standards for vacant lots and improved properties, the maintenance and refurbishment of our gravel and crushed shell roads and paths, repairs to existing paved roads and concrete curbs, and an intense effort to improve drainage throughout the Plantation.

The Marketing Committee has been hard at work developing a program to more effectively reach out to prospective new members and to better utilize existing members in the process of introducing The Ford Plantation to those who have not yet discovered everything that this wonderful Club and community have to offer. Thanks go out to the increasing number of members who are introducing their friends to Ford—it is important for every member to be aware of the importance of identifying and introducing friends who would make excellent additions to the Ford family.

Homebuilding activity will pick up a bit this spring, as four homes are under construction and six new home projects are being discussed. It is always exciting to see members break ground on their new “dream home” in The Ford Plantation, and the “buzz” created when new projects get underway is contagious!

Finally, on a more somber note, slightly more than 17 percent of the members have significant Club/POA account balances—primarily dues—that are past due by more than 90 days. This has obvious impacts on our operating cash flow position, and both Boards have taken a very serious and aggressive stance on this matter. Collection efforts will further intensify, and we will continue to employ every legal means available to us to collect monies owed to the Club and POA, plus interest, finance charges, and legal fees, as required. I will continue to keep the membership well-informed about this important and sensitive issue as updates are available.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your General Manager and to lead the wonderful team of associates that strive every day to serve you and help make your Club experiences as enjoyable as they can possibly be... I look forward to seeing you around the Club as you enjoy the beauty of this wonderful low country paradise. Have a wonderful spring!

Warmest regards,

Bob Gusella
General Manager / Chief Operating Officer

FORD PLANTATION PROPERTIES

Welcome to Ford Plantation Properties, your property professionals for The Ford Plantation. Together we have 30 years experience selling luxury real estate. Whether you are buying or selling, or just want to browse our beautiful property, Ford Plantation Properties provides unmatched representation for sellers of homes and land throughout the entire 1,800 acres. Our intimate knowledge of the property, combined with our proactive approach to real-estate sales and marketing, has placed us in the top echelon of our industry.

Our team will engage you and your friends with a high level of enthusiasm, personal attention, and professionalism, whether you are looking to buy or sell a luxury waterfront home, a home site, or one of our cottages. We would love to tell you more in person about the many opportunities we have. Please call us today. John Weber may be reached at 912-257-3500 or jweber@fordplantation.com, and Liz Pell may be reached at 912-547-3978 or epell@fordplantation.com.



Ford Plantation Properties recently retained nationally-recognized executive John M. Weber (right) to lead the sales and marketing program at The Ford Plantation. John has a strong track record increasing overall sales volume for new and existing communities. He executes proven marketing skills on a global scale through thoughtful and focused marketing approaches using online strategies, new media, direct mail, public relations, product launches, owner referrals, and effective broker programs. John and Sales Associate Liz Pell are eager to showcase the exciting opportunities that exist at Ford.



Lot 67. Nestled among historic oak trees, this five bedroom home boasts expansive views of Lake Sterling and the 7th fairway. Downstairs has a beautiful family room with a large casual eating area that connects to a screen porch, all overlooking the breathtaking views. Offered at \$2,750,000.



Lot 91. This beautifully designed four bedroom home is located on Lake Sterling. Every room in this comfortable home takes full advantage of the incredible lake and golf course views. It's a must see! Offered at \$2,250,000.

Lot 284. This brand new, magnificently appointed home has three beautifully designed bedrooms in 4,287 sq. ft. and sits in the heart of Silk Hope Plantation.

This is a true craftsman home with attention to every detail, including volume ceilings and wide plank pine floors. Offered at \$1,695,000.



CH47. The charm of the Low Country is all here in this beautiful, three bedroom home. Located in the heart of Cherry Hill Village, it is in close proximity to The Clubhouse, the Golf Course, Lake Dye Grill, and the Sports Barn—in the center of it all! Offered at \$995,000.

COMMUNITY CORNER

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: TIM ORR

As TFP's equipment manager, Tim Orr oversees a comprehensive preventive maintenance program for all of our golf course maintenance equipment, including mowers, rollers, sweepers, trucks, automobiles, and other mechanical equipment used at Ford.

The program Tim runs includes the repair of failing equipment, keeping records of parts and labor needed to maintain each piece of equipment, and placing orders for parts and supplies needed for equipment or service. Tim places safety as a top priority and is also responsible for maintaining a clean service area and maintenance building.



Tim Orr is an employee of the Golf Course Maintenance Department. A veteran of the United States Coast Guard, he now serves as Ford's equipment manager.

Prior to joining The Ford Plantation team, Tim served in the United States Coast Guard from 1984–2004. During his tenure, he was stationed at numerous locations, including bases in Puerto Rico, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, and Hawaii. Tim obtained the rank of Chief Avionic Technician and countless other military certifications. In 2004, Tim retired with an honorable discharge from the United States Coast Guard.

“The importance of the work Tim does for our agronomic department is impossible to quantify. A good equipment technician, such as Tim, is the backbone to any successful golf course maintenance operation. Tim is second to none in consistently providing our team members with the equipment needed to get the job done right and in a timely manner. In addition to solely maintaining more than \$1.1 million of equipment, Tim is always willing to lend an extra hand. It is this attitude and his attention to detail that makes Tim such an invaluable employee,” says Nelson Caron, Golf Course Superintendent.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- 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, 6pm, 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
- Easter Weekend is one of the most popular annual events at Ford, with families gathering from near and far to enjoy Ford Plantation traditions. Our events this year include many customary favorites, along with some new activities.*
- Ford Tour of Gardens
 - Fish Fry Buffet
 - Tennis Club Championship
 - Kids Explorer Camp with Naturalist Mike Womble
 - Easter Cookout
 - Kids Egg Decorating
 - Pony Rides
 - Easter Grand Buffet
 - Petting Zoo and Easter Egg Hunt
 - Easter Parade—members and guests may participate in any of five sections (Balloon Kids, Antique Cars, Easter Bonnets, Decorated Golf Carts, Ford Dogs in Easter Outfits). All sections will be judged, and Ford amenity vouchers will be awarded to the best in each section.
 - Kids Sports Camp (the week after Easter)
- 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



The Ford Plantation
12511 Ford Avenue • Richmond Hill, GA 31324
Our *Sporting Life* Editor: Shannon R. GaNun,
Director of Communications and Membership
sganun@fordplantation.com • 912-756-3291