

THE 19TH HOLE

FOR THE MEMBERS OF STONO FERRY & THE PLANTATION COURSE



FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL MANAGER GREG WOOD

If you are reading this I think it is safe to assume golf is a big part of your life. Some call it an activity or a sport, but for some of us it is a large part of how free time is spent. It is also where many of our life long friends have been made. Rarely is a round played where something happens and a happy memory from the past comes to mind. Thank goodness that this wonderful sport passed the social distance requirements for the pandemic! I cannot imagine being unable to go outside to enjoy a round of golf. Many thanks

to the membership for adjusting to the many changes that were made to the daily routine at the course in an effort to keep the course open. I also want to thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to make adjustments. I am happy to announce a couple of improvements that are being made to The Links at Stono Ferry. The first is a complete renovation of the on course restrooms. The exteriors, interiors, flooring, and all fixtures. The driving range is also having an artificial grass line added to the tee closest to the clubhouse. The tee line will be a great addition. It will reduce the amount of wear and tear on the turf. It will also allow us to grow in the turf so it is a great surface year round. I hope all of you continue to enjoy this great sport through out the summer!



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GRASS CLIPPINGS STONO FERRY

I'm sure you have noticed over the last few weeks our greens have been going through some changes. Coming out of the winter months several greens have not responded well. After contacting our greens consultant, we have determined that our aggressive approach to eradicate the winter poa annua followed by the application of a growth regulator has impacted these greens. We are continuing to work very closely with our consultant through weekly visits and implementing a very good plan of attack to improve these areas. We just need some cooperation from Mother Nature to give us some consistent bermudagrass growing weather. Thank you for your patience while we work through this time.

During the months of May and June we accomplish cultural practices such as aerification and topdressing. Mid-June, we will be aerifying the greens a little differently. Instead of

GOLF INSTRUCTION BEN SLOAN

An important aspect to hitting solid shots is having good rhythm. When I have gone to tour events, that is probably the thing that stands out the most. Tour players have fantastic rhythm. We all know that they swing club fast and hit it a long way, but in person it does not appear that way at all. I think one of the main reasons for that is they have great "connection". Connection is one of the words in golf that can mean different things to different people. And that is alright. Connection to me is when a player makes an arm swing that matches the amount of body rotation that occurs in their swing. Another way of saying that would be that they make a full turn relative to the length of their backswing.

I see this pretty frequently among amateurs, they will turn as much as they can which may only get them to a $\frac{3}{4}$ swing, but they think they have to get the club back further so they lift their arms and become DISCONNECTED. This can lead to inconsistencies in rhythm because your swing is now out

MICHAEL EARGLE – Course Superintendent

the conventional method of pulling cores out of the greens, we will be using a process called Dryject. Basically, the process injects sand into the green with little surface disruption, leaving the green smoother and firmer than the conventional method. This program not only alleviates compaction and improves water infiltration, but allows beneficial nutrients and oxygen to reach the root zone. It also allows the roots to obtain a massive structure, which will withstand the summer heat and numerous rounds of golf.

May all of your drives be straight and your putts short.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dryject greens **June 17**

Michael

of sequence. Next time you have a club in your hand make a few backswing rehearsals with a glove underneath your lead arm. As you are making a backswing focus on turning as much as you can while keeping the glove pinned to you. If you stop your turn and lift your arms the glove will drop out. So remember, the more you can match up your arm swing with your body rotation the more in sequence you can be. When you have a good sequence, you can have good rhythm.



THE PLANTATION COURSE AT EDISTO UPDATE HEATHER HENDERSON

This has been a crazy Spring for all of us with the continued risk of COVID 19 and the restrictions put in place by local and state government as well as an EF2 tornado on Edisto on April 13th. The tornado came in from the ocean around the 3300 block, across Palmetto Blvd and Myrtle St, then on to the golf course at the #5 tee. We suffered quite a bit of wind damage on the course as well as a lot of debris from the severely damaged homes in the path, especially on holes 5, 9 and 18.



As for the COVID 19 restrictions, the most recent order from the Town of Edisto Beach keeps the current checkpoint in place and a date was not given as to when it will be lifted. Currently, they are only allowing property owners and residents access through the checkpoint. Beginning May 8th, some renters with reservation dates before April 2020 will be allowed access and others beginning May 15th. The renters will be required to show proof of rental contract for the property. We are staying in touch with our local government and will send out notice when they will allow day visitors and golfers. I certainly hope it will not be too much longer.

Everyone at The Plantation Course looks forward to seeing you all soon!

GRASS CLIPPINGS EDISTO CURT SHEFFER – Course Superintendent

It has been a wild start to the 2020 golf season as we have seen our share of unforeseen circumstances. We miss the bustle of tourist season and all the friendly faces we are used to seeing on the golf course in the spring. Our hope is that slowly and responsibly we get to welcome more golfers out to the beach.

Currently we are in the process of cleaning up from an EF-2 tornado that swept across the island, damaging portions of the golf course. 5 Tee, 9 approach, and areas on 18 and 13 are where the tornado did most of its damage. It took a few days to clean up the debris, a practice we have unfortunately come accustomed to. After removing many limbs that had broken and were hanging in the trees, we decided it was safe to resume play. The cleanup will be an ongoing process as there are many trees that need to be removed, piles of debris to be chipped and fences to be repaired. Thank you for your patience while the cleanup continues.

Please stay safe and thank you for reading!



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD PROFESSIONAL SCOTT GLAZE

I think we can all agree that these are very interesting and trying times in our lives. Thankfully, Stono Ferry has been able to remain fully operational (with many changes) and has provided a wonderful escape and outlet for the golfing community.

I wanted to take my column this month to thank our incredible Members, Men's and Women's Golf Associations, and our staff for coming together during this pandemic as we have practiced our "new normal" with social distancing and superior cleanliness and disinfection. We are all hoping to get back to more familiar schedules and gatherings sooner rather than later.

The Men's and Women's Golf Associations made the terrific decision in early March to postpone all spring events. This included the Stono Cup, Stono Classic, and both Member-Guests. While the decision seemed premature to some at the time, it proved to be a great choice that will help the Club run these annual events in full capacity and to full satisfaction later in the year. I cannot thank each board enough for their quick and decisive actions.

The Men's President's Cup Match Play is currently underway, and is able to continue under safe social distancing. At the current moment, the MGA/WGA Yellow Ball on June 6 will be our first event. Below are the proposed and/or official rescheduled dates for our 2020 events.

MGA Sponsor Appreciation	TBD
Stono Cup & Stono Classic	Tentatively June 27-28
Men's Member-Guest	September 11-13
Women's Member-Guest	Tentative September date
Club Championship	Tentatively October 10 & 11
Member-Member	November 6-8
Men's Stag Tournament	November 21
Women's Closing Day	December 5

As we have become all too familiar, these dates are subject to change. We will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and make any adjustments that we need. Once tentative dates become official, we will send out notice. As always, my staff and I thoroughly enjoy bringing you the best club membership experience in the Lowcountry. We hope you and yours are staying safe and healthy, and enjoying socially distancing yourself on our beautiful golf course. Please do not hesitate to let us know how to serve you better.

Keep washing your hands and keep it in the short grass,

Scott





MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION NEWS

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and happy. It certainly has been a trying time over the last 6 weeks and we're so fortunate to have The Links at Stono Ferry operating at what I imagine must be close to capacity. We appreciate all the effort that Greg and the staff have put in to keep the club up and running as smoothly as it has, they all deserve a hearty thank you!

The Men's Golf Association has adjusted to and supports the modifications to what we can and cannot do on and around the golf course and I know that many of our regular games have seen a significant increase in attendance. Unfortunately, recent events have postponed the Stono Cup, Sponsor Appreciation and our Member Guest tournaments until later

JIM GARRETT – P r e s i d e n t

this year. We will continue to follow the state and local government guidelines to insure the safety of our members and guests along with the club staff as we look to reschedule. We are excited to welcome several new members to the club and are happy that we continue to grow in membership.

We look forward to seeing you out on the course this spring! Continue to Stay Safe, PLAY FAST and HAVE FUN!

Jim Garrett

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION NEWS MARILYN SCHNITZ – President

The two-day Stono Classic has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28. An updated announcement goes out very soon and we are all looking forward to a terrific tournament and challenge to our game-day skills. Dianne Taylor and Lynn Rundbaken have been planning it, literally, for months. So grab a partner if you don't have one and sign up for golf, luncheons on Saturday and Sunday, prizes and fun with your fellow members. Entry deadline for this Crystal event is June 22.

And if your aspirations include sliding your vehicle into that coveted **Club Champion** parking space, mark your calendars for **Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11**. Donna Hill has offered to chair the event this year. If you are a little confused, you have every right to be. We had originally scheduled this event for September, but the clubhouse asked us to find a new date when they needed that weekend for the rescheduling of the MGA's Member-Guest weekend. You can play energetically Saturday and Sunday and then take Monday off, with the rest of the world, to rest up and thank Columbus for finding a continent with the potential for so many good golf courses.

As of this writing, **MGA-WGA is still scheduled for June 6**, but keep looking for updates on this event. If you are new to the WGA, you might want to know that "Mugga-Wugga" is a relaxed, Saturday morning round with teams of MGA and WGA members competing together in foursomes and enjoy a casual luncheon on the deck afterward.

We have no updates on our **Home-Home events with the Seabrook and the Kiawah women**. Our April 15 round at Seabrook was cancelled because of the pandemic and is not yet rescheduled since Seabrook is renovating one of their courses. I talked with our contact at Kiawah and the resort is not yet ready to add any tournaments to the calendar. However, we are **still hosting Seabrook's women here at Stono Ferry on Wednesday, September 9**. Ande Savanna and I will be working on that.

The **Birdie Box** is still open for business and on the table in front of the pro shop check-in counter. Melanie Byrnes would love to add your name to the official records.

NEW TEES

If you play the Silver-Green Combo tees, you've noticed some changes: your tee on # 4 is now Green, on # 6 now Silver and on # 11, now Green. Please email me with your comments and feedback on the new tees; I will put all comments together and offer club management a summary of WGA feedback. **(Email to schnitzmarilyn@gmail.com.)**

NEW WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY LEAGUE PLAY FORMATS

We've seen an enthusiastic reception for the new formats and the player rosters have been quite full. Do you know that since our season opened on February 26, we've had over **210 rounds of golf played by 32 different members in the biweekly events as of May 2?** And that includes at least two dates with substantial rain! The prizes usually go to first and second place winners and we seem to have ties on a regular basis, as well as a variety of winners. So...thank you to everyone who helped find sponsors, because this new protocol costs more than waiting till the end of the year to award a single prize...but it's fun, and worth it, it seems! Every game format we use is in the Member Handbook on pages 12-15.

RULES CORNER

Editor's note: Rules Corner's purpose is not to intimidate or to diminish anyone's enjoyment of golf, but to build everyone's knowledge of the rules of golf and confidence in playing it well. WGA member Georgiann Kralik, who is a USGA-R&A Advanced Level Certified rule official, has offered to prepare text each month. Some information will be general and some will be geared to situations at Stono Ferry and Edisto, since both courses have challenges in design where a knowledge of the rules of golf is helpful. We will also target situations and practices that have been questioned by players.

WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION NEWS CONTINUED...

First, let's look at some **resources** so you will know where to look when you have a question, want to learn more or for clarity about a rule that is cited. It is a good idea to bookmark the USGA site. Second, let's look at two specific and frequent questions about relief if your ball lands in the overgrowth in the middle of Hole #11 or in water near the dogleg on Hole #16 .

GENERAL RESOURCE LINKS:

USGA website: <http://www.USGA.org>. You can access any rule about which you may have a question. In addition to reading a rule you may watch videos on common rules, view Q and A sessions and read decisions about rulings. You may also order official publications through the link on this site.

USGA Rules of Golf App for your phone: Allows you to access the Player's Edition, Full Rules and Interpretations in print and you don't need to carry anything with you but your phone. The best part is that the app is free. The app will most likely give you more information than you need, and you can even use Siri to help you. The **"Full Rules"** is the most useful publication and easiest to understand. This resource also includes illustrations.

Golf Rules Quick Reference by Yves C. Ton-That: This is the flip book that was offered to members for purchase at the opening meeting for \$10. Several members have copies of this easy to use summary. This book may also be ordered on Amazon.

For those of you who would like more information about the 2020 World Handicapping system, there is a wonderful link on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TsB7qJB8Hc>.

Specific Situations: The Links at Stono Ferry

We are fortunate to have our course open for play. During league and tournament play, red and yellow penalty areas and OB areas are generally clearly defined. Greg Wood has assured us that they have begun the process of refreshing

the course markings and have targeted a date for completion. Until the course is marked, please play the course as it has been marked in the past.

The holes that have been in particular need of clarification are holes #11 and #16.

Specific Situations: The Links at Stono Ferry

• **Hole #11** - The swamp area in middle of the general area where the grass is uncut is to be played as a **red penalty area** whether or not stakes or lines are visible. Relief should be taken under **Rule 17.1d**.

• **Hole #16** - When there is water visible in the general area on hole 16, if a player's ball is to the left of the cart path, the water should be considered as an **abnormal course condition** (temporary water) and relief should be taken under **Rule 16.1b**. If the player's ball is to the right of the cart path and the course is not marked, the player's ball should be considered to be in the penalty area and relief should be taken under the options for a **red penalty area Rule 17.1d**. When the course is marked, please play the course as it is marked for penalty area relief to the right of the stakes or lines and temporary water to the left of the stakes or lines.

SPONSORS

Please remember to support our sponsors with your business! Vikki Callison will soon be sending out a directory and description of our sponsors with addresses and contact information. Our sponsors will need support as businesses try to resume normal operations. And to those who, perhaps, are not comfortable seeking business sponsorships but who step up with personal sponsorships, the WGA offers a tip of the hat and sincere "thank you" to each of you! WGA dues and entry fees do not cover all of our expenses and the WGA can offer diverse activities only with the supplemental revenues that sponsorships provide. We are also working on putting together some clubhouse-based promotional activities on behalf of our sponsors.

2020 MAJOR TOURNAMENT & EVENT SCHEDULE

- September 5 Nine & Wine
- September 12-13 The Links at Stono Ferry Club Championship
- October 3 Oyster Roast on the Stono River
- October 17 Nine & Wine
- November 6-8 MGA/WGA Member-Member
- November 20-21 MGA Stag Team Tournament
- December 1 Gifts for Golf Tournament
- December 3 Golf Shop Holiday Sale
- December 4 Member Holiday Party
- December 5 WGA Closing Day



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