



MAY - JUNE 2025

ISSUE 3

# THE 19TH HOLE

STONO FERRY • THE PLANTATION COURSE • TOT HILL FARM

GENERAL MANAGER **STONO FERRY**

## GREG WOOD

As we approach the summer season, I wanted to share some news regarding my role with our club family. After nearly 26 wonderful years based at The Links at Stono Ferry—a journey that began in August 1998—I will be making a small adjustment to my operational base while maintaining my commitment to our community.

Effective June 1st, I will continue my role as Director of Operations for all three of our beautiful courses—The Links at Stono Ferry, The Plantation Course at Edisto, and Tot Hill Farm—but will now be based primarily at Tot Hill Farm in Asheboro, NC.

This change will allow me to better oversee operations across all properties while ensuring that the excellent service you have come to expect remains unchanged. Rest assured, I will be making monthly visits to The Links at Stono Ferry and The Plantation Course at Edisto, and will gladly make additional trips whenever needed.

Our exceptional leadership team remains steadfast, with Pete Skirpstas, Heather Henderson, and Brad Fogleman continuing in their roles as Operations Managers to maintain the day-to-day excellence you deserve.



It has been my greatest professional privilege to be part of the growth and evolution of The Links at Stono Ferry over these past two and a half decades. The relationships built and memories made with you, our members, have made this place feel like home, and that will never change regardless of where my desk happens to be.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or simply to say hello when I am visiting. My door—whether in North Carolina or right here in Charleston—remains open to you all.

**Greg Wood**, General Manager, Stono Ferry

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION **STONO FERRY****ANDREW EMERY****A SIMPLER WAY TO FIND FAIRWAYS**

We've all heard that you **have** to play your driver way up in your stance to "hit up" on the ball—but for most recreational golfers, especially those swinging under 95 mph, that advice can do more harm than good. In my latest video, I share a better way: finding a driver ball position that works with **your** swing, not against it.

By playing the ball slightly farther back, many golfers instantly clean up their contact and path - leading to more fairways hit, even if it's not a 340-yard bomb like Rory. I also dive into why most players should be using at least 10.5° of loft - and how a simple adjustment with your wrench can turn your driver into a slice-busting fairway finder.

I invite you to check out my Golf YouTube channel **@AndrewEmeryGolf**. I've had over 5 million views - click on the link to view my latest video that discusses this topic in detail.

Watch the full breakdown here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@andrewemerygolf>



Private lessons are available right here at Stono Ferry if you're ready to take the guesswork out of your game. Let's find what works best for you.

Hit 'em straight!

**Andrew Emery**

Director of Instruction

The Links at Stono Ferry

## GRASS CLIPPINGS STONO FERRY

## MICHAEL EARGLE

## COMPREHENSIVE GREENS CONDITION UPDATE

## Current Situation &amp; Assessment

I want to address the current condition of our greens at Stono Ferry and provide a thorough explanation of what we're experiencing. As many of you have noticed during your recent rounds, our greens are not meeting the high standards we all expect and deserve: 100% turf coverage, weed-free surfaces, smooth rolls, and consistent speeds.

During our professional assessment conducted last week, we identified three primary issues affecting our putting surfaces:

1. Areas of weakened and thinning Champion Bermuda grass
2. Patches of turf loss on some greens
3. Significant poa annua (annual bluegrass) intrusion

The 6th green has been most severely affected, with approximately 30% turf loss, followed by the chipping green behind the 18th green showing similar damage patterns. The remaining greens show varying degrees of stress, with most displaying 10-15% affected areas.

## Detailed Explanation of What Happened

the chipping green behind the 18th green showing similar damage patterns. The remaining greens show varying degrees of stress, with most displaying 10-15% affected areas.

Charleston experienced an historically unusual winter this year, with meteorological data showing:

- 17 days with temperatures below 30°F (compared to our average of 3-4 days)
- Nighttime temperatures reaching the low 20s on multiple occasions
- A January snow and ice event measuring approximately 3 inches that remained on our course for 7-10 days

This created a complex turfgrass management challenge known in the industry as "false spring syndrome" with these specific consequences:

- **The Igloo Effect:** The layer of snow and ice acted as an insulating blanket over our greens, creating a greenhouse-like environment beneath. While air temperatures remained frigid, the soil beneath the snow warmed to spring-like temperatures.
- **Premature Growth Activation:** This warming triggered our Bermuda grass to exit winter dormancy prematurely. The plant biology shifted from its protective winter state into active growth mode, with energy redirected to leaf blade production rather than root system maintenance.

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## GRASS CLIPPINGS STONO FERRY CONT.

- **Root System Compromise:** As the grass blades greened and lengthened, the root systems simultaneously shortened and weakened—a normal part of spring transition, but occurring at exactly the wrong time.
- **Secondary Cold Damage:** When the snow melted, these physiologically confused plants with shallow, weakened root systems were immediately subjected to multiple days of sub-freezing temperatures without the protective snow cover. This caused significant cellular damage to the already compromised root systems.
- **Opportunistic Weed Invasion:** The warm, moist environment under the snow created perfect germination conditions for poa annua (annual bluegrass) seeds, which then aggressively colonized weakened areas once the snow melted.
- The combined result of these factors created the perfect storm for turfgrass damage. The visible symptoms you're observing—discolored patches, weak response to mowing, inconsistent speeds, and noticeable annual bluegrass invasion—are all direct manifestations of this winter weather sequence.

### Comprehensive Treatment Plan & Detailed Timeline

After consulting with both regional turfgrass specialists and the Champion Bermuda cultivar developers, we've developed a systematic recovery program:

#### 1. Emergency Stabilization Phase (March 1-May 12):

- Implementation of specialized irrigation protocols maintaining precise moisture levels in the top 2 inches of soil
- Short, frequent irrigation cycles (4-6 times daily) to ensure continuous moisture without saturation
- Application of specialized root-promoting biostimulants (applied weekly)
- Reduced mowing frequency (every other day rather than daily) and raised cutting height by 0.020 inches
- Hand-watering of particularly stressed areas twice daily
- Temporary green speed reduction to protect recovering turf (targeted at 9.0 on the Stimpmeter versus our normal 10.5)
- **Member Note:** *During this phase, you'll notice softer greens that hold pitch marks more readily. This is intentional and necessary for recovery.*

#### 2. Resodding Operations (May 12-17):

- Procurement of certified Champion Bermuda G12 sod from our specialized supplier in Houston, Texas
- Temperature-controlled shipping via refrigerated trailer to maintain optimal plant health
- Precision removal of damaged areas on the following schedule:
  - May 12: 6th green (approximately 1,000 sq. ft. requiring replacement)
  - May 13: Chipping green (approximately 2,000 sq. ft.)
  - May 14-15: Spot repairs on additional greens as needed (approximately
- Installation using specialized techniques to ensure seamless integration with existing turf  
Implementation of accelerated establishment protocols

## GRASS CLIPPINGS STONO FERRY CONT.

### 3. Rehabilitation Phase (May 18-June 15):

- Continued specialized moisture management with gradual reduction in irrigation frequency
- Progressive lowering of mowing heights based on condition of turf
- Implementation of rolling program to improve green speeds while protecting new growth
- Application of targeted fertilization program to promote lateral growth and filling-in of weak areas
- Systematic poa annua control measures as root systems strengthen
- Weekly core testing to monitor root depth development
- **Member Note:** *During this phase, green speeds will gradually increase, and consistency will improve, though full recovery will still be in progress.*

### 4. Performance Restoration Phase (June 16-July 1):

- Return to standard maintenance practices with monitoring
- Final surface preparation techniques implemented
- Green speeds returned to normal
- Completion of any necessary detail work
- **Member Note:** *By this phase, playing conditions should be approaching our standard expectations, with full recovery expected by July 1.*

### Scientific Monitoring Program

To ensure our recovery is proceeding as planned, we've implemented a data-driven monitoring program:

- Weekly soil temperature readings at 1-inch and 3-inch depths
- Root mass and depth measurements on sample plugs taken from non-play areas
- Daily green speed measurements on representative greens
- Moisture content monitoring using time-domain reflectometry
- Photographic documentation of recovery progress

### Communication Commitment

We understand how important course conditions are to your enjoyment of Stono Ferry. To keep you fully informed, weekly progress updates will be emailed to all members each Friday.

### Goal & Commitment

Our unwavering target is to restore our greens to premium playing conditions by July 1st. This means:

- Uniform, weed-free turf across all surfaces
- Smooth, consistent rolls restored to all greens
- Smooth, fast, and quality green speeds
- Resilient surfaces that will maintain quality throughout the remainder of the season

We're confident that with this comprehensive approach and your patience, Stono Ferry's greens will not only recover but will be in excellent condition for the prime summer season. We appreciate your understanding during this recovery period and remain committed to providing the exceptional golf experience you expect from our club.

Sincerely,  
Michael Eargle



## PRO SHOP UPDATE STONO FERRY

### PETER SKIRPSTAS

Hello everyone!

I hope you're as excited as I am for the warm weather and perfect growing conditions ahead—it's shaping up to be a fantastic season at Stono Ferry!

We're off and running with both the MGA and WGA President's Cup events!

#### WGA President's Cup

The Women's Golf Association had a **record turnout of 22 players** this year! The first round is complete, and the Sweet 16 matches are currently underway. Up next is the **WGA Member-Guest** on **Saturday, May 3rd**. The weather looks ideal, and we're thrilled to host this event—it's always filled with fun and camaraderie in a relaxed atmosphere.

#### MGA President's Cup

The Men's Golf Association also hit a milestone with **76 players** participating in this year's President's Cup. Continuing the format from last year, we held a qualifying round where players were flighted into **seven flights** based on handicap index. The top four players from each flight advanced to the match play portion, along with the **top four net scores** not already qualified, who advanced to the "Death Flight."

We're especially excited about the **new Final Four format**—the last four players will compete the **Friday night before the Club Championship** in a six-hole round-robin match. The **top two players** will then move on to a **sudden death playoff on hole 18**. Let's all hope for sunshine and great golf!

#### MGA Member-Guest

Mark your calendars for the **MGA Member-Guest on May 17th–18th**. We have 120 players registered, all vying for a spot in the always thrilling **Member-Guest Shootout**, where the pressure is high and the crowd always brings the energy.

#### The Cannon Invitational – A First for Stono Ferry

We're proud to announce that Stono Ferry will be hosting its **first-ever Pro-Am, The Cannon Invitational**, on **June 29–30**. This exciting new event will feature **regional PGA Professionals** and several well-known **golf YouTube influencers**. We're looking for sponsors and would love to have **Stono Ferry members** involved. If you're interested, please email me directly to learn how you can be part of this special event.

#### Short Game Immersion Classes

Don't miss our **Monthly Short Game Immersion Classes** led by **Pete Skirpstas and Director of Instruction Andrew Emery**. These clinics focus on the "miniature golf swing" and essential fundamentals around the green. It's a great opportunity to improve your short game and your scores—remember, the goal is to turn three shots into two, not three into four!

As always, my door is open—feel free to stop by for a chat or reach out with any questions.

See you on the course,

**Pete Skirpstas**

Golf Operations Manager

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE STONO FERRY

### HI EVERYONE!

Spring is officially here, and we're already off to a busy start! The Masters may be over, but things are just getting going around here — lots of golf, great food, and good times ahead. Here's a quick look at what's coming up:

#### WGA Member Guest – May 2nd & 3rd

We've got an awesome menu planned for the ladies to fuel up and have fun on the course. It's going to be a great couple of days!

#### Burgers N Brews – May 8th | 5 – 8 PM

If you haven't made it to Burgers N Brews yet, now's the time. Great burgers, cold drinks, and a chill vibe. Save the date and bring your appetite.

#### MGA Member Guest – May 16th – 18th

Three full days of golf, food, and drinks. This event is always a blast, and we're ready to keep the players well fed and hydrated all weekend long.

#### Next Burgers N Brews – June 12th | 5–8 PM

Back by popular demand! It's that time of year to enjoy warm weather, good company, and a killer burger with all the extras.

We've also got **new spring and summer specials** rolling out soon, so be sure to stop by the clubhouse and see what's cooking.

**Exciting news:** A new cocktail menu is on the way! We've been mixing up some creative drinks that we think you're going to love—stay tuned for the launch in the next few weeks.

And one more big thing—we're thrilled to be hosting the **Cannon Pro-Am** this season! We can't wait to show off our beautiful course and serve up the best of Stono's food and drinks to everyone visiting.

That's all for now. Hope to see you at the clubhouse soon!

#### Regina Forehand

Director of Food & Beverage

Links at Stono Ferry



## REAL ESTATE STONO FERRY

### DAN LORENTZ

With summer just weeks away, the pace is picking up around Stono Ferry and the Lowcountry. Longer days and increased activity mean more potential buyers are out exploring/playing golf—and there may be no better time for sellers to take advantage of the momentum heading into the summer market.

Our on-site office is located inside the Stono Ferry Clubhouse (first door on the right) and is open seven days a week! Whether you're curious about the market, considering a move, or just want to say hello, we're here for it. If we're out showing property, feel free to leave your info on the iPad just outside our door.

Interest rates have recently dipped slightly, a change that could push buyers who've been waiting on the sidelines to act. With inventory still low and demand holding strong, it's a smart moment to get ahead of the curve.

Another reminder that we also also proudly serve the Edisto market—Stono Ferry's sister course community. From full-time homes to vacation getaways and investment properties, we bring the same expert insight and personal service across both areas. If you are thinking of making a move soon let's talk!

For immediate assistance or personalized advice, don't hesitate to contact Dan directly at **843-532-4653** or [dan@danlorentz.com](mailto:dan@danlorentz.com). If selling your property is part of your New Year's goals, we're here to help make it happen!

#### Dan Lorentz

Greater Charleston Properties Team

The Boulevard Company

Cell: 843.532.4653

Office: 843.631.2463

#### QUICK STONO FERRY MARKET STATS:

There are currently **5** active homes for sale, and **1** home that is active contingent.

There have been **5** homes to close in the last **6** months, the average sale price for non waterfront homes is **\$304.80** per sq ft (includes the Reserve at Stono Ferry), and the average time on market is **159** days.

#### QUICK EDISTO ISLAND/BEACH MARKET STATS:

There are currently **37** active homes for sale, and **15** homes that are active contingent.

There have been **36** homes to close in the last **6** months, the average sale price is **\$612.71** per sq ft, and the average time on market is **47** days.



## PRO SHOP UPDATE PLANTATION COURSE

### HEATHER HENDERSON

On April 26, 2025 we hosted our **7th Chickenman Memorial Invitational Tournament** to honor the memory of **Leland P. Vaughan**, who passed away in 2016. Leland loved Edisto and the Plantation Course and worked for many years rebuilding the reputation and the quality of the course. He made so many new friends in his time at Edisto which is evident through the support we receive for this tournament each year. It was my pleasure to work with him and it is now my pleasure to honor him through this event!

The tournament was created to raise money for a scholarship fund in Leland's name at Presbyterian College where he played baseball. In 2022, we decided to do things a little different and include local charities in a portion of the money along with the scholarship. Our goal is to continue to donate half of the money raised each year to different local charities. For the 2025 event, we are excited to have our local donation go to the Edisto Island Youth Recreation League along with a portion to the Young Naturalist to help send a local student to summer camp. I know Leland would be very proud to see the money raised helping young students achieve their goals. A total of \$18,000 was raised this year.

In the Pro Shop, we have lots of great items on sale as well as new spring attire, hats and gift items. With beach days just around the corner, check out our BeachGOFF games as well as beach pillows and hats. We have also added some baby gifts and a small selection of children's shirts to our inventory for 2025.

### Please Remember:

- If you receive a new credit card, you must update the # with us at Edisto as well as Stono Ferry. Charges at each course are processed separately.
- No shows will be charged a cart fee, so be sure to cancel tee times if you cannot make it.
- Please double up in carts.
- If you bring a group of members, please give each player's name before arriving to help with check.

**We look forward to seeing everyone at Edisto this spring!**

### The 2025 Tournament Winners were as follows:

**1st Place: Kelly Bullard** (Leland's Daughter and her 1st time putting a team in the Chickenman Memorial), **Morgan Watt, Bryson Watt and Jimmy Moore**

**2nd Place: Wesley Nettles, Kevin Lyles, Alvin Hiers and Taylor Stratton**

## GRASS CLIPPINGS PLANTATION COURSE



### JOE HILL

Finally, warmer weather has arrived, and winter is officially behind us! March and April were packed with projects and preparation for the growing season, and we are excited about the progress made so far.

Many of you expressed concern about the Poa Annua this year. Rest assured – it is already on its way out, and we now have a better strategy in place to manage it more effectively moving forward.

Looking ahead, May and June will be busy months on the course. During the second week of May, we will perform a light verti-cut on the greens to maintain speed as we prepare for aerification, scheduled for June 2–3. Throughout May, you will also notice efforts to establish new short grass areas around the greens. Additionally, we will aerify and top-dress the tees a second time to improve oxygen exchange and help smooth out divots.

June kicks off with every golfer's favorite event—greens aerification. This essential process removes unwanted thatch and promotes firmer, faster greens throughout the summer. We will be using 1/2" tines to pull cores, followed by top-dressing and verti-cutting. The following week, we will needle tine the greens (without pulling cores), followed by another round of verti-cutting and top-dressing. This will be our only aerification for the year.

Thank you all for your continued support and patience. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JANUARY****16th** BURGERS AND BREWS**22nd** BOURBON BINGO AND BUBBLES**FEBRUARY****8th** WGA OPENING DAY**9th** SUPER BOWL BLITZ**13th** VALENTINES DINNER**20th** BURGERS AND BREWS**MARCH****8th - 9th** WGA STONO CLASSIC**13th** BURGERS AND BREWS**APRIL****1st** WGA PRESIDENTS CUP MATCH PLAY**10th** BURGERS AND BREWS**12th** MGA PRESIDENTS CUP QUALIFIER**18th** EASTER EGG HUNT SOCIAL**MAY****2nd - 3rd** WGA MEMBER GUEST**8TH** BURGERS AND BREWS**16TH - 18TH** MGA MEMBER GUEST**JUNE****12th** BURGERS AND BREWS**20 - 21st** STAMPEDE @ TOT HILL FARM**17th** CAROLINAS OPEN QUALIFIER**29th - 30th** CANNON PRO-AM @ STONO FERRY**JULY****10TH** BURGERS AND BREWS**18TH** SUMMER SANDY SOCIAL SUMMER BBQ**AUGUST****10th** BURGERS AND BREWS**SEPTEMBER****11th** BURGERS AND BREWS**13th - 14th** CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**OCTOBER****3rd** ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST**10th - 12th** WGA MEMBER MEMBER**14 - 16TH** OVERSEED**16th** BURGERS AND BREWS**24th - 26th** MGA MEMBER MEMBER**NOVEMBER****8th** WGA CLOSING DAY**13th** BURGERS AND BREWS**DECEMBER****2nd** GIFTS FOR GOLF**9th** STONO FERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY**11th** BURGERS AND BREWS**11th** HOLIDAY SALE