

Life & Times

Estero Country Club at The Vines

April / May 2015

Mission

Estero Country Club provides a welcoming environment for its members, families and guests through exceptional golf, dining, tennis, fitness, lifestyle and social experiences.

April Events

- 3 *Men's Golf Shootout, Friday 2:00*
- 3 *Fish Fry & A la carte Menu, Friday 5:30-8:30*
- 5 ***Easter Brunch, Sunday 11:00-3:00***
- 7 *Book Club, Tuesday 1:00*
- 8 *New Member Mingle, Wednesday 6:30*
- 10 *Ladies Golf Shootout, Friday 2:00*
- 10 *Egg Me On Tennis Season Closing Party, Friday 5:30*
- 11 ***Season Finale with Kelly & Shelly, Saturday***
- 13 *Fishing Tournament, Monday 8:00*
- 13 *Men's Interclub Golf Event, Monday 1:00 Shotgun*
- 17 *Sneaks & Cleats, Friday, Tennis 11:00 Golf 2:00*
- 17 *Karaoke Night in Mulligans, Friday 7:00*
- 18 *Chef Demo & Luncheon, Saturday 11:30*
- 23 *Wine & Canvas Painting Party, Thursday 5:30*

May Events

- 5 *Book Club, Tuesday 1:00*
- 10 ***Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday 10:00-2:00***
- 12 *Summer Tennis Mixer-Pizza Party, Tuesday 5:30*
- 23 *Summer Sizzler Tennis Mixer, Saturday 11:00*
- 25 ***Memorial Day Golf Scramble & BBQ, Monday, 8:30 Shotgun & BBQ 11:30-2:30***

Yoga - April 3rd, 6th & 10th - 8:30

Morning Groove - Saturdays in April, 9:00

Stretch & Flex - Tuesday & Thursday in April & May, 7:30

BOARD OF Governors

- Skip Loper - President
- Doug Dalrymple - Vice President
- Carol Berger - Secretary
- Tom Spaeth - Treasurer
- Don DiBrita
- Barry Freedman
- Mike Kennedy
- Bob MacDougall
- Tom Rush

Committee Chairs

- Finance - Tom Spaeth
- Golf - Doug Dalrymple
- Greens - Mike Kennedy
- Grievance - Carol Berger
- Heritage/Memorial - Carol Berger
- House & Entertainment - Don DiBrita
- Legal & By-Laws - Tom Rush
- Long Range Planning - Tom Rush
- Membership & Marketing - Barry Freedman
- Personnel - Carol Berger
- Property - Bob MacDougall
- Tennis - Tom Rush

President's Message

For those of you who have attended the various Town Hall Meetings this year, you are well aware that the planning and activity levels at ECC have never been greater. The Board, with the help of outside facilitators, has endeavored to better involve the membership to determine their wants, needs and desires – i.e. how can ECC grow and prosper while best serving you, the members.

We listened and have implemented changes throughout the Club – ranging from a more proactive dining experience to expanded lifestyle activities to the development and communication of a Strategic Plan. The next important step is for you to provide us feedback in the form of completing a follow-up survey which you are about to receive. Your responses will become the basis for defining and prioritizing those projects and activities which will characterize us as a Club. Additionally, they will help focus our 2015-2016 Budget which will be developed during the next few months.

As has been communicated to you, the Board elected me to become the next President at ECC succeeding Tom Rush. His vision, dedication and hard work have brought us to a key crossroads in our history. We are fortunate that he will be on the Board for another year and has agreed to chair the Long Range Planning Committee to help ensure our continued success.

Your Board is committed to exceeding your expectations and making decisions consistent with the By-Laws and in the best interests of the Club. To that end, we pledge to listen intently, act decisively and communicate extensively. Thank you.

Skip Loper

Tennis Shop

Tom Funk
tennispro@esterocc.com

Greetings from warm and sunny Florida, I have been watching our teams play this winter season and appreciating the great weather we have had compared to all our northern neighbors.

We have had a busy season with numerous great events and matches and many more to come. Please do not forget to use ForeTees to reserve courts. Teams will be ending their seasons soon and court times will be prime times. Our daily morning time slots are: 8am to 9:30am; 9:30am to 11:00am and 11:00am to 12:30pm. Players who show up for courts early can play as long as the court is empty.

As you can see from the pictures, our 2 Days of Pro doubles Workout Tennis was great. We had Fred our Pro, Patrick Kangwa from Rapallo Country Club, Ralph Knapp from West Bay Club and a return visit from Elliot DeBolt at The Players Club. Everyone enjoyed the day and catching up with Elliot.

The Tennis and Golf Staff are firming up the details for our annual “Sneaks & Cleats Event” April 17th, along with our season closing “Egg Me On” event.

I want to thank all our team Captains for doing a great job this season. Their hard work makes coordinating play seem easy, but it is a lot of work. Be sure to show them your appreciation when you see them around the club.

I was very happy with the play this winter season. Everyone really came together in the social events and the team competitions. Enjoy this great weather and see you on the courts.



Pro Doubles Workout



A Letter from the Treasurer

In accordance with Article IX, Paragraph 1, Section C of the Club's By-Laws, the Finance Committee has a responsibility to report the financial condition of the Club to the membership on a quarterly basis. Accordingly:

- **Operating Statement:**
 - o **Net Profit** for the three months ended January 31, 2015 (before capital related expenses) is \$11,000 favorable to the Budget and \$63,000 unfavorable to the same period last year.
 - When looking at the favorable variance to Budget, it can be traced to reduced expenses – primarily within Golf Course Maintenance (timing plus reduced fuel costs).
 - Compared to last year, increased revenues are more than offset by higher operating expenses (filled vacancies, timing and Building related Maintenance).
- **Balance Sheet**
 - o Comparing January 2015 to January 2014 our balance sheet continues to be extremely strong.
 - **Current Assets** – driven by a higher Cash balance, have increased by \$245,000.
 - **Current Liabilities** – are \$226,000 lower throughout all categories.
- **Capital**
 - o During the first three months, we have spent approximately 10% of our annual budget. Primary expenditures thus far have been the existing capital lease costs for golf maintenance equipment.

If anyone wishes to obtain a copy of either the Balance Sheet or Summary Operating Statement, they are available in the Accounting Office.

Tom Spaeth

Golf Course Superintendent

Nathan Gingrich
supt@esterocc.com

Summer Work

As I sit to write this communication, we have finished the Invitational Tournaments and are about to begin the wet well project. The golf course maintenance begins preparing for next season in June of the year prior with our summer project work. Aerification season is a time that requires a great deal of patience from our year round members. However, it is critical to our success during the heavy play months of season. Aerification provides the turf with the strength to tolerate the demands placed on it during season. We are now headed into our fourth summer of heavy cultural practices and I feel that each year our turf has gotten stronger. We have entered the summer with more turf and more roots each and every year. What this means to the golfer are those greens will recover more quickly, not only from the stress of play, but also the stress of aerification. For those of you who have already returned north, we wish you the best and for those of you who are with us year round, I will see you around the course.



Men's Invitational - 25th Anniversary

Wasting Away in Margaritaville

thank
you!

The ECC Ladies Nine Hole Golf Association sends a big THANK YOU to all who participated in our Charity Golf Scramble on March 1. We contributed 287 pounds of food and toiletries to the Bonita Springs Assistance Food Pantry. The Goods and Services Auction, Split the Pot Raffle, and sale of Mulligans raised \$2,506 for the Employee Scholarship Fund! This enabled us not only to start an ongoing scholarship fund, but to give three scholarships to ECC employees this year. Our scholarship winners are Amanda Flaherty, Christina Jones, and Megan Kelly.

Scholarship Winners



Flynn, Clarks and Guests



Craig & Kerry Zebold (Adair's guest)



Emil & Sandra Stefkovich



Kennedys & Meyers



Amanda Flaherty



Jeff Adair & Nancy Scully



Susan & Skip Scully



Margo & Tom Russell



Christina Jones



Don & Donny DiBrita



Dan Lawrence, Karen Adair, Karl Peterson



Megan Kelly

Season Finale

"Magical Memories"

Saturday, April 11th

with Kelly & Shelly

Dinner Music 7:30-8:00

Dance Music 8:00-10:30

6:00 Cocktails-6:30 Dinner Stations



Members Only - Tables of 8 (limited tables of 10)

Casual Attire (No Denim) - 72 Hour Cancellation Policy

Easter Buffet

Sunday, April 5

11:00am - 3:00pm

72 Hour Cancellation Policy

Guests Welcome

Casual Attire

\$31.00++

BUFFET

Fresh Fruit Display

Norwegian Smoked Salmon Display with Mosaic of Accompaniments

Assorted Fruit Bread, Mini Muffins, Danishes

Apple Waldorf Salad

Greek Artichoke and Kalamata Salad

Tomato, Chick Pea and Cucumber Salad

Market Fresh Salad Bar with Assorted Toppings and Dressings

Omelet Station

French Toast with Fruit Topping, Warm Maple Syrup

Applewood Smoked Bacon and Breakfast Sausage

Chef Carved Ham with Honey Dijon Apple-Pear Chutney

Chef Carved Leg of Lamb with Demi Glace and Mint Jelly

Chicken Veronique with Tarragon, Red Grapes and Cream

Gulf Snapper Provençale with Green Olives, Slivered Garlic and Basil

Potato Casserole, Baby Vegetable Medley

Chef's Selection of Delectable Desserts

Membership News

Colleen Sowerby

Membership Sales Director

memberships@esterocc.com

We are very excited to say that we have had an amazing March membership month! We have welcomed 14 new members since our last newsletter. 7 new social members, 3 new sport members and 4 new golf members. The real estate inside The Vines has been selling faster than it can make it to the MLS listing! If you know a neighbor is contemplating selling their home before next fall, please have them reach out to a realtor...buyers are still looking before they return to their northern homes.

This season, we have had wonderful renters who are looking to come back next season. If you are thinking of renting for the first time for next season, give us a call and we will connect you with those on our waitlist!

Thank you to all the members who referred a friend or family member to the club this season – membership referral is very important to our continued success at ECC! Please welcome our new members listed below.

Mr. Brad Beatty & Ms. Marcy Neil

Social/Silver Oak
19300 Northbridge Way
612-581-8920
651-485-4857
bdeyes17@comcast.net
marcyneil@gmail.com
Minnesota

Ms. Katherine Camara

Social/Southwind
8420-1 Southbridge Drive
410-533-3958
623-694-7050
kjcarama@msn.com
Pennsylvaniz

Mr. & Mrs. John Crouthamel (Mary)

Social/Lost Creek
19631 Lost Creek Drive
813-373-1800
813-380-8772
johncrouthamel@gmail.com
turtlemkc@aol.com
Tampa, Florida

Mr. Lawrence Oberman & Mrs. Ellen Dreskin

Social/Southwind
8420-2 Southbridge Drive
973-615-3393
908-377-7308
ellenmusic@optonline.org
f0xgilbert@aol.com
New Jersey

Mr. & Mrs. Don Droke (Karen)

Silver
25540 Spring Tide Court
Bonita Springs
239-770-3002
dondroke@bhhsfloridarealty.net
ksbladeofgrass@gmail.com

Mr. Thomas Edelen & Ms. Linda Lillie

Sport/Vintage Trace
19863 Vintage Trace Circle
502-296-4768
tedelen@mw.twcabc.com
Kentucky

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Ely (Carla)

Social/Belle Lago
19896 Casa Verde Way
rely571@gmail.com
Carla.ely2@gmail.com
802-371-7318
Vermont

Mr. & Mrs. George Frageau (JoAnn)

Silver/Silver Oak
19527 Silver Oak Drive
239-676-1625
georgefrageau@sbcglobal.net
Conneticut

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jost (Ann)

Social/Fairway Bend
8627 Fairway Bend Drive
254-681-3428
254-554-1351
tjost9mm@yahoo.com
travelerrann56@gmail.com
Texas

Mr. & Mrs. Terence Keegan (Linda)

Sport/Southwind
8410 Southbridge Drive #1
920-265-5222
920-217-7852
TJK1529@gmail.com
Wisconsin

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McManus (Ann)

Silver
23540 Via Veneto Blvd #903
Bonita Springs
712-898-2162
mcmanus@longlines.com
South Dakota

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Miller (Barbara)

Social/Grand Palm
8231-1 Grand Palm Drive
239-910-2547
239-898-6014
kmiller1848@gmail.com
bmiller184@yahoo.com
New Jersey

Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Steigerwald (Lori)

Sport/Belle Lago
19275 LaSerena Drive
239-219-6919
lorisoptical@aol.com
stuart.steigerwald@gmail.com
New Jersey

Mr. & Mrs. Emil Stefkovich (Sandra)

Silver/Vintage Trace
19855 Vintage Trace Circle
epstef@comcast.net
saniedeleon@comcast.net
904-304-5154
904-304-1307
Minnesota

Dr. Anthony Zalis & Mr. John Mitchell

Social/Silver Oak
19331 Silver Oak Drive
610-420-2895
609-744-4337
azalis@aol.com
mymrwood@aol.com
Pennsylvania





It has been a very busy season, and we have every reason to believe that we will continue that trend in April. The All Community Outing and the various Shoot-outs still remain to be conducted, but aside from those events, our tournament calendar is nearly complete. We will be conducting a thorough review of all the events to determine what worked, what did not, and what changes need to be made. We have had many suggestions over the course of the season, and would like to encourage you to make your opinion known. Please email me if there is anything that you would like to see changed or implemented. We will be working hand-in-hand with the Tournament Committee to ensure that, when looked at holistically, our tournament calendar presents opportunities for all golfing members to participate in events that appeal to them. Thank you.

Ben Pittman, PGA
Head Golf Professional



From the General Manager

Craig Rollinson, CCM, CCE
generalmanager@esterocc.com

I hope everyone is enjoying the heart of our season here at Estero Country Club. The Member Survey follow-up from the McMahon group has just been mailed and you should also receive an email with the survey links to complete by email. This is the same firm that did the Master Survey back in April of 2014 and our Club's Strategic Plan. This current survey will give us updated information that will be used in operational and strategic planning for the future of ECC. It is important that all member voices be heard, so please complete this **short survey and return to the McMahon group by April 22nd.**

Surveying the membership is a great tool we will continue to use in the future on various topics, so please contribute your thoughts and opinions and be that member that makes a difference.

With the season winding down and many members transitioning to their northern homes, please let the office know if you would like your mailing address changed to your northern address so you receive Club correspondence in a timely matter.

Lost & Found

Many items have been left behind in the Clubhouse, as well as the golf course. There is a Lost & Found at the front desk and in the golf shop.

If you are missing an item, please check soon. At the end of season, we will clean out our bins and give items to charity.

Thank You

Please
Complete
Your
Member
Survey



Your Voice Is Important

Respond by Mail or Email Link
by April 22nd

Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 10th
10:00am - 2:00pm

Fresh Seasonal Fruit Display
Assorted Mini Muffins and Pastries
Assorted Toasts and Jellies and Jams
Norwegian Smoked Salmon with Mosaic of Condiments and Mini Bagels
Juice Station with Sunharvest OJ, Cranberry and V-8
Applewood Smoked Bacon and Sausage Thyme Links
Breakfast Potato
French Toast
Cheese Blintz with Strawberry Sauce
Bread Pudding
Carved Pit Ham
Made to Order Eggs and Omelet Stations
Freshly Made Waffles with Whipped Butter, Strawberry Sauce and Maple Syrup

\$18.00++

Reservations starting Friday, April 10th, 9:00am
72 Hour Cancellation Policy - Guests Welcome



Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th
Shotgun Golf Scramble 8:30

BBQ Lunch

11:30 - 2:30
Buffet to include:

Build Your Own Summer Salad
Southern Style Potato Salad
Pesto Pasta Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad
Grilled Hamburgers
Grilled Hot Dogs
Rosemary Garlic Chicken Breast
Baked Beans

Cupcakes and Fresh Baked Cookies
\$14++

Reservations starting Monday, April 27th - 72 Hour Cancellation Policy
Guests Welcome - Casual Attire