

Enjoy a sense of community at Wilderness Country Club

Cone Communications Co.

Special to Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

For Abby Adams, life at Wilderness Country Club in Naples is truly a family affair.

Adams' in-laws were among the first owners at Wilderness Country Club and she visited them for many years. When the in-laws were unable to travel seasonally anymore, Adams' and her late husband decided to keep the condominium for the time being and do some remodeling. That was 15 years ago.

Seven years ago, Adams' sister and her husband joined the family in purchasing a condominium within Wilderness Country Club. And, today Adams' grandchildren are now the fourth generation of the family enjoying Wilderness Country Club and travel from Los Angeles annually because they love it so much.

"I always tell people that you may come to Wilderness for the golf course or the Old-World Florida beauty, but what you are really getting is an incredible community of caring people," Adams said.

It turns out that the Adams family is not alone in seeking that sense of community. A recent survey of club members shows that 18 percent, or nearly one in five, purchased a condominium at Wilderness Country Club after previously having a relative who had resided within the country club community.

Nestled on 200 lush tropical acres along the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road just north of Golden Gate Parkway, Wilderness Country Club is a magnet for family members with its full array of club amenities and location right in the heart of Naples. The community consists of just 300 low-profile condominiums situated around an 18-hole Arthur Hills designed golf course that was totally refurbished by Hills in 2003.

The golf course is reminiscent of Old Florida and carries a reputation as one of the finest places to play in Naples, so much so, that it was chosen to host a regional qualifier for the 2019 U.S. Senior Open Championship. There also is a full practice area where golfers of all ages can work on their game with a driving range, short-game area and putting green, plus a full-service Golf Shop offering in-season clinics and private les-

sons taught by a Master Professional of the Professional Golfers' Association of America.

The golf program is a key feature for member Jeff Schreur, who still cherishes his time playing in the annual Invitational Golf Tournament with his father. Schreur's parents joined the club in the early 1980s and during that time he and his wife and children enjoyed several special trips to stay with them.

"Because of our memories of the close Wilderness community, the exceptional golf experience and the "Old Florida" look and feel of the beautiful grounds, we joined the Wilderness community in 2002," he said. "We are so grateful for the many friendships and experiences that we have enjoyed since then."

The multiple generations of families at Wilderness Country Club can be traced back to the club's origins.

The bundled golf course community was established in 1974 on the former Frank family "Hole in the Wall" ranch. The patriarch, Edward Frank, was a pioneer in Naples who helped start the first bank, first strip mall and one of the first auto repair businesses. The Frank family legacy lives on today at Frank Park, a 5-acre site featuring numerous specimen trees and shrubs from all over the world. Many of the trees are now labeled so that visitors can learn their common and Latin names as well as place of origin.

Other features of the park include four Har-Tru bocce courts and a regulation size croquet court where members can enjoy spirited competition. Also, within the property is a dedicated Dog Park area where members and their four-legged friends can participate in daily "Yappy Hour" social gatherings.

Near the edge of Frank Park overlooking one of the 12 ponds surrounding the golf course is a butterfly garden with a variety of flowering plants aimed at attracting the beautiful, brightly colored butterflies. The food and beverage team at Wilderness Country Club also visits the private park by maintaining raised beds of seasonal garden herbs that can be used in preparing creative dishes at the clubhouse.

The clubhouse at Wilderness Country Club is a hub for family gatherings offering formal and informal dining for up to 200 people. Many weddings and

other large family celebrations have been hosted over the years. Member activities in season include organized Bridge and Mahjong, twilight golf followed by dinner every Wednesday, Sunday afternoon croquet and a mixed winter/spring bocce league.

Wilderness Country Club also is recognized for its vibrant tennis and POP Tennis program with lessons and matches led by a U.S. Professional Tennis Association Certified Elite Professional. Five heated swimming pools are conveniently interspersed throughout

the community to be enjoyed by all ages.

With its lush surroundings, Wilderness Country Club also is host to many families of birds and other wildlife. The club has been designated as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for more than 20 years.

Wilderness Country Club has been member-owned and controlled from its inception. For additional information or to view available properties for sale, call 239-261-6060 or visit www.wildernesscc.com.



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