

Wilderness Country Club in Naples to celebrate 45th anniversary

Cone Communications

Special to Naples Daily News

Wilderness Country Club, a groundbreaking residential development that holds the honor as the first private, gated golf course community with a mandatory membership built in Naples, announced that it will celebrate its 45th anniversary in 2019.

Wilderness Country Club sits on 200 forested acres on the east side of Goodlette-Frank Road, north of Golden Gate Parkway. The community features 300 low-profile condominium residences around an 18-hole Arthur Hills designed golf course that was totally refurbished by Hills in 2003.

Much has changed in Naples since Wilderness Country Club was founded in 1974. But one thing that hasn't changed is the community's lush tropical setting in the heart of Naples. The community is close to Fifth Avenue South, Waterside Shops and Gulf of Mexico beaches.

Wilderness Country Club was developed with the natural environment in mind. Everything possible was done to protect as much of the existing habitat as feasible. Each condominium building was carefully sited to offer long sweeping views of golf course fairways, trees, lakes and other native plants.

Many of the two- and three-bedroom units have been fully refurbished for resale while others are like a blank canvas allowing purchasers to use their imagination and create a residence that suits their unique needs. Residences are spacious and feature an abundance of glass that brings the beauty inside.

The community's clubhouse is reminiscent of Old Florida and sits on the second highest point in Collier County. The entire property rests above a mega aquifer that transmits water for the City of Naples.

The clubhouse offers formal and in-



Wilderness Country Club is on Goodlette-Frank Road, north of Golden Gate Parkway in Naples. SUBMITTED

formal dining for up to 200 people. There is also a full-service Golf Shop offering weekly clinics and private lessons taught by members of the Professional Golfers Association of America, and a practice area featuring a driving range, short-game area and putting green. In addition to golf, members have access to four Har-Tru tennis courts with an on-site tennis pro and five heated swimming pools interspersed throughout the property.

Members also enjoy the 5-acre Frank Park that was dedicated in 2013 to the pioneering Frank family. Within the park are nearly two dozen specimen

trees from all over the world, many labeled with their common and Latin names and place of origin. Other park features include four Har-Tru bocce courts, a regulation size croquet court, a dog park and herb and vegetable gardens.

Wilderness Country Club has been designated as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary where a wide variety of birds and wildlife abound. Numerous specimen plants, shrubs and trees dot the property and more than 80 species of birds, including bald eagles, ospreys, white ibis, anhingas, great blue herons, red shouldered hawks, barred owls and

swallow-tailed kites, have been documented on the site.

The surroundings at Wilderness Country Club provide the ideal location for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to use as a safe place to return rehabilitated animals, such as turtles, hawks and owls, to their native environment. Wilderness Country Club also collaborates with the Conservancy on the not-for-profit organization's Upper Gordon River Wildlife Corridor project.

Wilderness Country Club has been member owned and controlled from its inception. Online at www.wildernesscc.com.