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DEER CREEK COURSE REOPENS AT THE LANDINGS ON SKIDAWAY ISLAND: AN EXAMPLE OF CONTINUAL REINVESTMENT

SKIDAWAY ISLAND, GA, October 19, 2009 -- Behind the gates of a quiet residential community on an island off Georgia's emerald coast, the "great life" revolves around great golf. And great golf begins with great courses. Few golf communities can boast one private championship golf course. The Landings offers six – all Audubon certified. Designed by immortals of the game, each course offers a distinct layout and required style of play. But perhaps the toughest part isn't the courses, but which course to play.

Enhancing courses for optimum play and member enjoyment has been a focus and a priority since the inception of The Landings Club in 1974. Since 1998, the Club has invested heavily in renovation and aggressive maintenance of its facilities. Four of the Club's six championship courses, designed by names such as Arthur Hills, Arnold Palmer, and Willard Byrd, have all been completely renovated in recent years. The approximately \$7.7 million renovation project of the Club's Deer Creek Golf Course, designed by Tom Fazio and opened in 1991, is currently complete and the course is now open for play. Tom Marzolf, the original designer of Deer Creek for the Fazio Group, was once again in charge of renovating his course 18 years later.

The scope of the project included complete replacement of the irrigation system with state of the art computerized control and irrigation sprinklers, which optimize the Club's limited water resources. Fairways have been completely recontoured to assist in better drainage which will help to keep the course playable and will be regrassed with a newer strain of Bermuda grass called Celebration, a variety that is shade and drought tolerant and will help with water conservation. Cart paths have been replaced with concrete in place of the original asphalt paths; greens complexes have been completely redesigned to USGA specifications and have been grassed with TifEagle. The green collars are now TifDwarf Bermuda. The greens have been reshaped to allow surrounding collection areas that feature closely mown recovery shots.

The design also included the construction of five tee pods on each hole, which assist in a more equitable yardage distribution. Under this system, the course can be played anywhere from 5,136 yards from the front tees all the way up to 7,058 yards which can be played from the Championship tees. The course also incorporated U. S Kids Course tee markers on each fairway which assist younger players to play the course from tees established at achievable yardages for their ability. A typical Level 1 Kids par 4 plays at an average of 120 yards and a typical Level 2 Kids par 4 plays at an average of 250 yards. Par 3's play anywhere from 65 to 100 yards.

A lot has changed in golf course design in the last 18 years and Marzolf offered the following quote on his expectations of the project prior to its reopening *“Deer Creek will re-open in October as a completely new golf course. The holes have been adjusted to match the evolution of the game since 1990. Golf balls and clubs have improved dramatically and so has the level of turf care since the late 1980’s. This course was re-built with improved drainage techniques, new shade tolerant grasses, more tee space, re-positioned fairway bunkers, and new hole location options on larger, more receptive greens.”*

The new Deer Creek golf course will get a reaction from players that remember the “Old Course”. The new holes have a distinct, strategic interest, requiring players to think before aiming the tee shots. The green surrounds, with low cut turf, will allow more club selection options for pitching, chipping, and putting back to the flagstick.

The practice area is perhaps the most exciting expansion of the project. The larger, more open teeing areas ensure more spaces to hit practice balls. The state of the art, two short game areas, allow for focused practice of all the new shot options found throughout the new Deer Creek design.

Deer Creek promises to be an exciting course, adding more variety to the golf experience at The Landings.

Additionally the Club has invested \$5.5 million in a recently completed expansion and renovation of its Fitness Center, which is now one of the largest private club fitness centers in the U.S., at approximately 32,000 square feet.

The Landings is a fully developed community with all of its amenities in place and ready for members to enjoy. For the past ten years, its Home Owner’s Association has successfully managed the community. Even in this recessionary period, The Landings has been able to make these significant facility improvements for its members in a debt-free way – making it a uniquely resourceful and successful community.

Located just 12 miles from historic Savannah on a 6,500-acre island off Georgia’s emerald coast, The Landings on Skidaway Island is the recipient of the Urban Land Institute’s coveted Award for Excellence. Its extensive list of amenities includes six championship golf courses, 34 Tennis Courts in three tennis centers, a state-of-the-art Fitness Center, two full-service marinas, four swimming pools, four dining clubhouses, and 40 miles of walking and biking trails. With over 100 social clubs and the proximity of Savannah – one of America’s most enchanting, culturally rich cities - The Landings offers a lifestyle that most people only dream about.

For more information, call The Landings toll free at 800-841-7011 or visit www.thelandings.com.