

An aerial photograph showing a lush green golf course with several fairways and sand traps. The course is interspersed with dense tropical vegetation and clusters of residential houses with various roof colors. A large, winding canal or lagoon system flows through the property, eventually leading to a sandy beach and the ocean. The sky is bright with scattered clouds, and the water in the foreground is shimmering with sunlight.

A Look Back in Time
Wulfert Point and The Sanctuary Golf Club

Susan Johnson Cassell

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Sanibel Island, Florida
2018



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Foreword

In 2018, The Sanctuary Golf Club celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of the golf course. As part of the festivities, I gave a presentation on the history of Wulfert Point and the development of the Club. This book includes the images and text from that presentation.

I hope current and future members of the Club will enjoy learning about the people who lived here and who founded the Club.

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Calusa

The first inhabitants of Wulfert Point were the Calusa. They were the dominant tribe of southwest Florida; their territory extended from Charlotte Harbor to Cape Sable. They built mounds, or middens, at several locations on Sanibel. One of these was located near the 4th green of the golf course. Others are still visible along the Calusa Shell Mound Trail in the "Ding" Darling Refuge.

Juan Ponce de Leon encountered Calusa when he "discovered" Florida in 1513 and sailed into San Carlos Bay. In the 1700s, most of the Calusa died of European-borne diseases and massacres during the conflict between Spain and England for control of Florida. When the Spanish retreated to Cuba in 1763, the few remaining Calusa followed. By 1800, their culture was extinct.

Castor Bean Plant

William Allen came to Sanibel just before 1870. He brought castor beans and intended to grow them for their oil, which was used at that time in medicine and as an industrial lubricant. He did not stay long on Sanibel, perhaps because of the ferocious 1873 hurricane. He left for Everglades City. However, the bean plants grew and spread. They still flourish on undeveloped parts of the island, including the edge of the golf course behind the 9th green.





Oliver and Mary Bowen

The federal government opened Sanibel to homesteading in 1888. Settlers came, and this time they stayed. The first of these pioneers were Oliver Bowen and his wife Mary. Oliver was a Mississippi River boat captain and Confederate sympathizer. On a trip to Trinidad, he met and married Mary Dos Santos. They homesteaded 80 acres near Bowen Bayou, which was named for them. Their land was located near the entrance to The Sanctuary.

Agave Plant

Bowen brought agave plants from Latin America to Sanibel. His intention was to use the agave sap to produce artificial rubber. Nothing came of this plan. However the agaves still grow wild on undeveloped parts of Sanibel Island.





Oliver Bowen Grave Site

Oliver Bowen died in 1894. His wife stayed long enough to prove her claim to the homestead in 1909 and then returned to Trinidad.

Bowen's grave is one of 22 landmarks on the city of Sanibel's register of historical places. It is located to the left of Wulfert Road, before the entrance to The Sanctuary. It is currently on private property that is not open to the public.



Wulfert Settlement and the Holloway House

Mason and Anna Dwight homesteaded 110 acres at the end of Wulfert Point. They built a store and a dock where the 4th green is today and named the area Bay Beauty. They brought in Tom Holloway as a partner, and he built this house on one of the four lots near the store, on what is today the 4th fairway. Holloway later acquired land on what became Holloway Bayou.

When Josiah and Louise Dinkins came to Sanibel, they gave their name to the bayou adjoining their 139-acre farm.



Louis and Jennie Doane

Louis and Jennie Doane arrived in 1897 and homesteaded 85 acres located where the practice range and Ibis condominiums are today. They were also the post mistress and mail carrier for the newly formed post office. An outspoken woman and suffragette, Jennie wanted the post office named after herself as first postmistress, but Mason Dwight disagreed. Since he arrived before the Doanes, he felt that the post office should carry his name. A postal inspector settled the debate by naming the post office "Wulfert." No one knows where the name came from or why it was chosen. It replaced Bay Beauty as the name of the settlement.



Post Office and Dock

The post office and dock were the center of activities in Wulfert Village at the turn of the 20th century. A steamship from Punta Gorda arrived and departed daily with passengers, food, supplies, and mail. This was the sole means of communication between the homesteaders and the outside world.



Wulfert Village in 1913

This photo of Wulfert Village appeared in a brochure encouraging settlers to come to Lee County. It emphasized the advantages of living in a mild climate and noted that Wulfert had a store, a post office, a dock, homes, a school with six students, and 13 registered voters.

I think that this photo was taken from the 4th tee and looks down the 4th fairway. To the right is Pine Island Sound; in the background is Buck Key; on the left are the village houses; in the center, at the far end of the row of palms, is a small building that housed the post office and store.



Tomato Field

Settlers on Sanibel made their living as farmers. They grew citrus fruit, coconuts, and vegetables. Their major crop was tomatoes. Sanibel tomatoes were prized in northern markets because they were juicy and delicious. They also ripened early because of the mild climate.

Packing House

Getting crops like tomatoes from the Wulfert farms to market was hard work. Ripened tomatoes were picked and then taken to a packing house such as this one used by the Gibson family. Cartons of tomatoes were transported to the Wulfert dock by horse or mule drawn carriage.

The Gibsons came to Wulfert in 1900 to work on Mason Dwight's land, and the whole family participated.





Bulkhead

The cartons of tomatoes were taken by boat to a bulkhead located about a mile and a half off shore because the waters around Wulfert were too shallow to accommodate a steamship.

In 1914, Lee County finally dredged a channel deep enough to allow steamships to come to the Wulfert dock. This was a major boon to the farmers.

Steamship

A steamship like this one came daily from Punta Gorda, where the railroad ended. It stopped at the small settlements along Pine Island Sound - including Captiva, Saint James City, Wulfert, and Sanibel - and ended up in Fort Myers. Returning to Punta Gorda, it made the same stops and picked up the tomatoes, which were then transferred to a railroad car and shipped north.

This was a very difficult way to make a living, but somehow the farms thrived. By 1920, the population of Wulfert had grown to 50.





At the Wulfert Dock

The dock also served as a loading and unloading point for mail and other goods. This photo shows Louis Doane holding a mailbag.



Great Miami Hurricane, 1926

Hurricanes have always been a part of life on Sanibel. The Wulfert settlement survived a number of hurricanes, but none of them was as destructive as the "Great Miami Hurricane" of 1926. It flooded the entire island, destroying crops. Sea water permeated the soil and made it unusable for farming. Some settlers sold their land and left; others simply abandoned their farms. By 1930, only 5 people remained on Wulfert. Five years later, the post office closed, and Wulfert Village was no more.



Clarence Chadwick

Many of the Wulfert homesteaders - including Dwight, Holloway, and Dinkins - sold their land to Clarence Chadwick. Chadwick had made a fortune in banking and came to Captiva in the 1920s. He bought the Carter and Bryant homesteads on the north end of the island and planted groves of key limes and coconut palms. In the 1930s, he put in more coconut and key lime groves on Wulfert. He also bought a house in Fort Myers and, like many newcomers to Florida, invested in real estate. After his death in 1947, his Captiva property was sold to a hotel group and eventually became South Seas Resort. Chadwick Square is named for him.

His wife Rosamund remained in Fort Myers, and their Wulfert property was not sold until after her death.



The Mitchell House

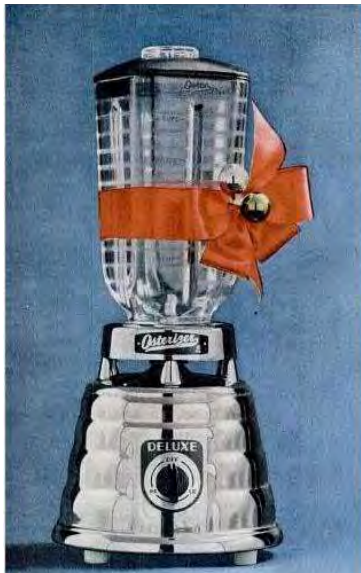
In 1920, Bill and Stella Mitchell came to Sanibel from Racine, Wisconsin. Like Chadwick, they invested in real estate. They bought extensive property along the Sanibel Captiva Road and moved into a house near Blind Pass. Built in 1910, that house is still in the Mitchell family and is located next to the Mad Hatter restaurant. The Mitchells also bought the Doane homestead on Wulfert. Bill Mitchell died in 1935; his wife stayed in their home until her death in 1975 at the age of 92. She was a well-respected member of the Sanibel community and supported "Ding" Darling's conservation efforts on the islands.



Dean Mitchell and the Mitchell Preserve

The Mitchells' son Dean was an important member of the Sanibel business community. He founded two resorts - Castaways in the 1950s and Mitchell's Sand Castles in the 1960s. (Both are still in business.) He decided to sell the last 22 acres of the Mitchell land on Wulfert and, in 1969, worked out a purchase plan with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF). Founded in 1967, SCCF wanted to buy the property, but didn't have the money to pay for it. So SCCF turned to The Nature Conservancy, a Washington non-profit that had helped SCCF on other property acquisitions. The Conservancy bought the land and held it for four years while SCCF raised the necessary funds. Title was transferred to SCCF in 1973.

Three decades later, the Sanctuary wanted to expand its driving range, which backed up to the Mitchell Preserve. The Club approached SCCF about the possibility of acquiring a small part of the preserve, but SCCF declined. Their contract with the Conservancy stipulated that SCCF must hold the land in permanent conservation. In addition, SCCF supporters would certainly object to the transfer of any conservation land to a golf club.



The Osterizer, the original liquefier-blender. Makes pie fillings without pre-cooking, blends creamy smooth cheese dips, chops fruits, vegetables, nuts, blends homemade cream soups, crumbles bread—ever fresh bread, whips up frothy beverages, blends sauces creamy smooth, grates potatoes for potato pancakes... even makes fresh, homemade peanut butter! Famous, too, for tangy drinks like caesars, slingers, grass-hoppers, Alexanders. White or chrome models from \$39.95 to \$49.95.



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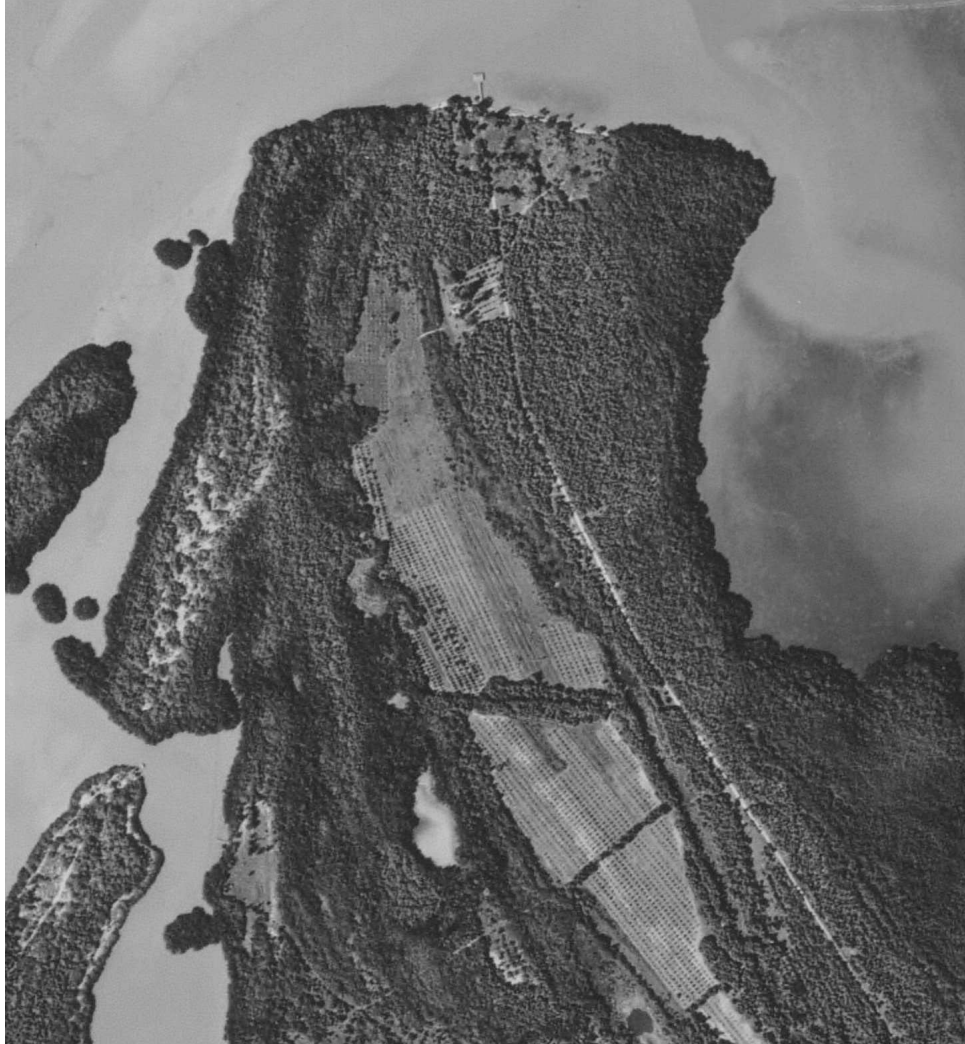
Another major property owner on Wulfert was John Oster. John and his wife Katerina were Hungarian immigrants who settled in Racine, Wisconsin, where they met the Mitchells. John's company manufactured clippers for barber shops. He expanded his business in 1946 by acquiring a company with a patent for a liquefying blender. He repackaged the product and marketed it as the Osterizer, a hugely successful small kitchen appliance.



White Heron House

The Osters came to Sanibel in the 1920s and bought Tom Holloway's house and lot at the end of Wulfert Point. In the 1930s, they bought part of the Mitchell property on the Sanibel Captiva Road and moved the house to it. Built about 1905, the White Heron House is one of the oldest buildings on Sanibel and is on the city's register of historical landmarks. It is privately owned today.

The Osters also acquired 45 acres on Wulfert across from what is now the Mitchell Preserve.



1944 Aerial of Wulfert Point

During the Second World War, Wulfert Point was deserted, and the military used it as a bombing target range. This 1944 aerial shows what remained of the orderly groves of coconut palms and key lime trees that once stretched the length of Wulfert Point. The old Wulfert Road along the right side of the groves leads to the abandoned village and dock at the top of the photo.

Chadwick's property on Wulfert - nearly 400 acres - was finally sold after his wife Rosamond's death in 1963. It was purchased by Thomas and Frances Mitchell.



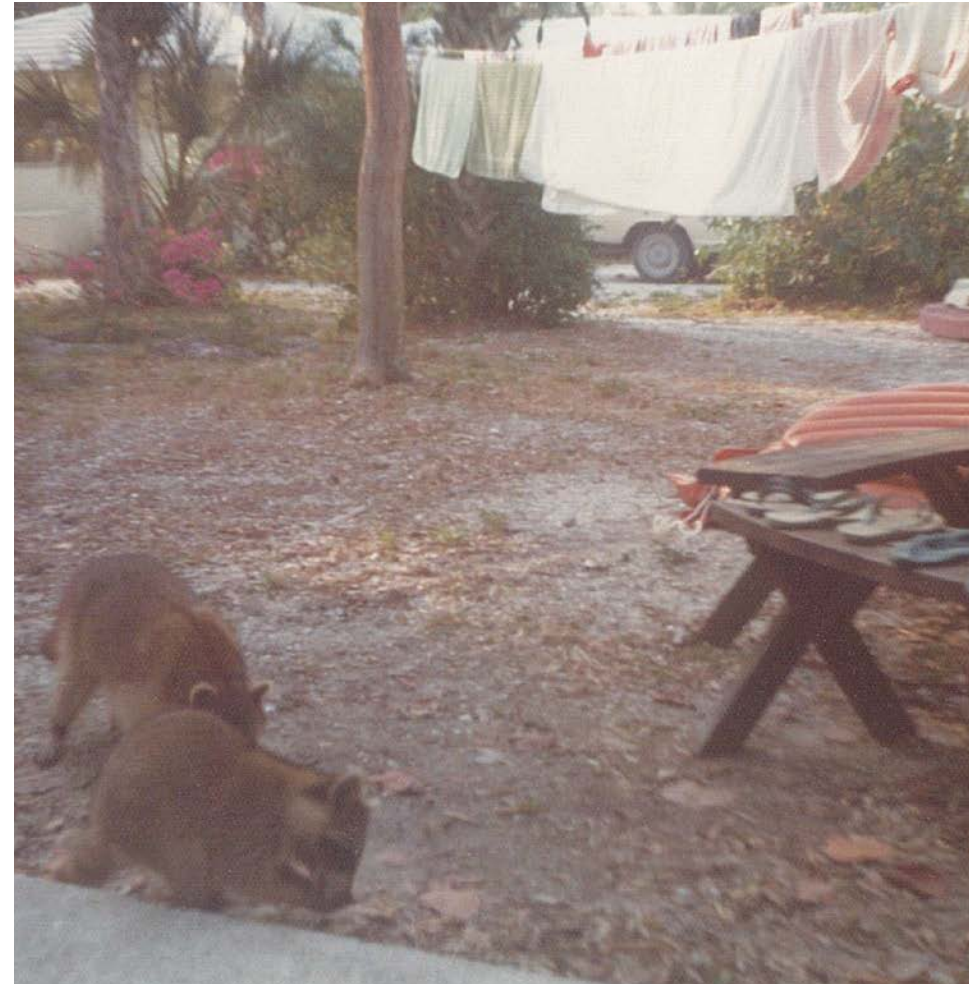
Thomas and Frances Mitchell's House

Tom and Frances Mitchell (not related to Bill and Stella Mitchell) came from Illinois. Tom was a nuclear physicist and may have worked on the Manhattan Project. He was a very private man. He built two houses on Wulfert and lived quietly here with his wife. Like many people who come to Sanibel, he was interested in conservation. He was a founding member of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) and provided generous support for sea turtle research. The Mitchells left Sanibel for Arizona in 1972.



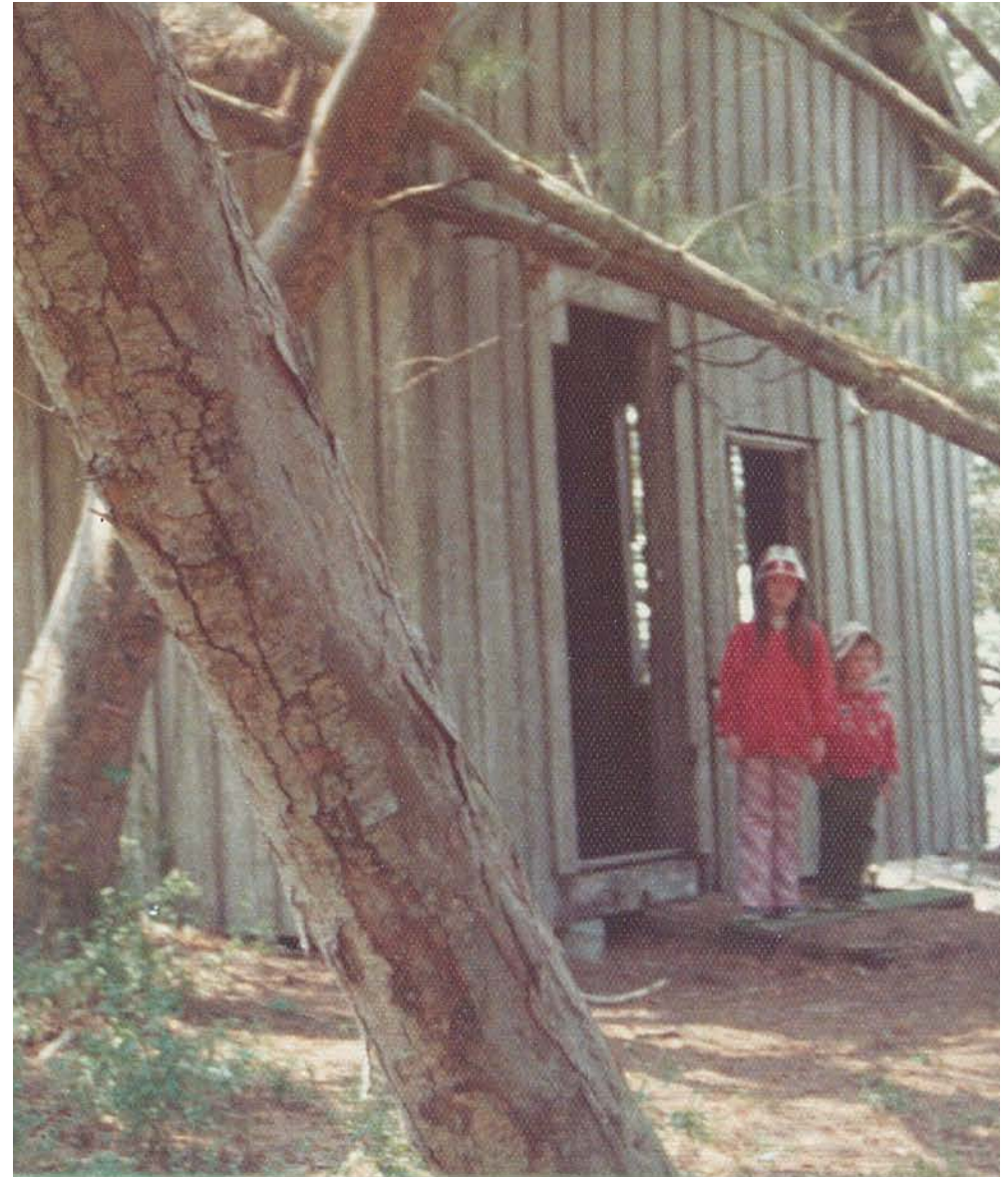
John and Lucy Ruth

John and Lucy Ruth were also from Illinois and were interested in land investment. Hearing about the availability of a large parcel on Sanibel, John came to Sanibel and met with Tom Mitchell. John liked the land, and the two men agreed on a price. Returning to Chicago, John brought in five investors and formed the Sanibel Bayshore Associates (SBA), with John as managing partner. SBA also bought another adjacent parcel, bringing the total to 415 acres.



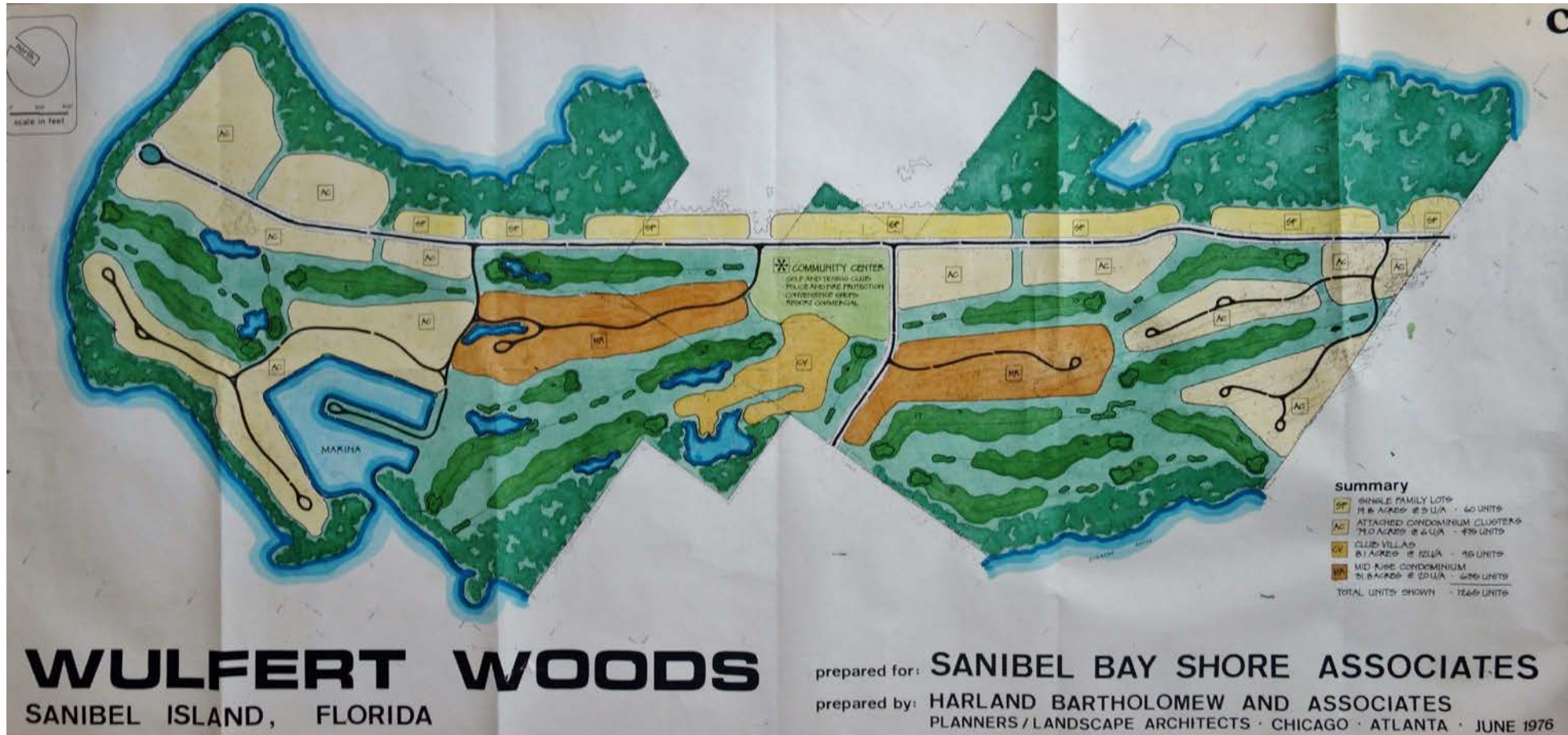
Harold and Edith Craig

The Ruths needed a caretaker for their land, as they still lived in Chicago. Tom Mitchell suggested his friends Harold and Edith Craig. A retired dentist, Harold lived on the east end of Sanibel. He and Edith agreed to move to the house on Wulfert and be caretakers of the property. They both enjoyed living at the end of Wulfert Road in the middle of nowhere. They drank the well water, which smelled of sulfur; they told their family that the minerals were healthful. They enjoyed boating. Edith had a large garden and became infamous on Sanibel for feeding the raccoons that hung around their house. The Ruths visited the Craigs from time to time and stayed in the smaller house on the property. Exploring Wulfert in the Craigs' truck, the Ruths got to know the land well.



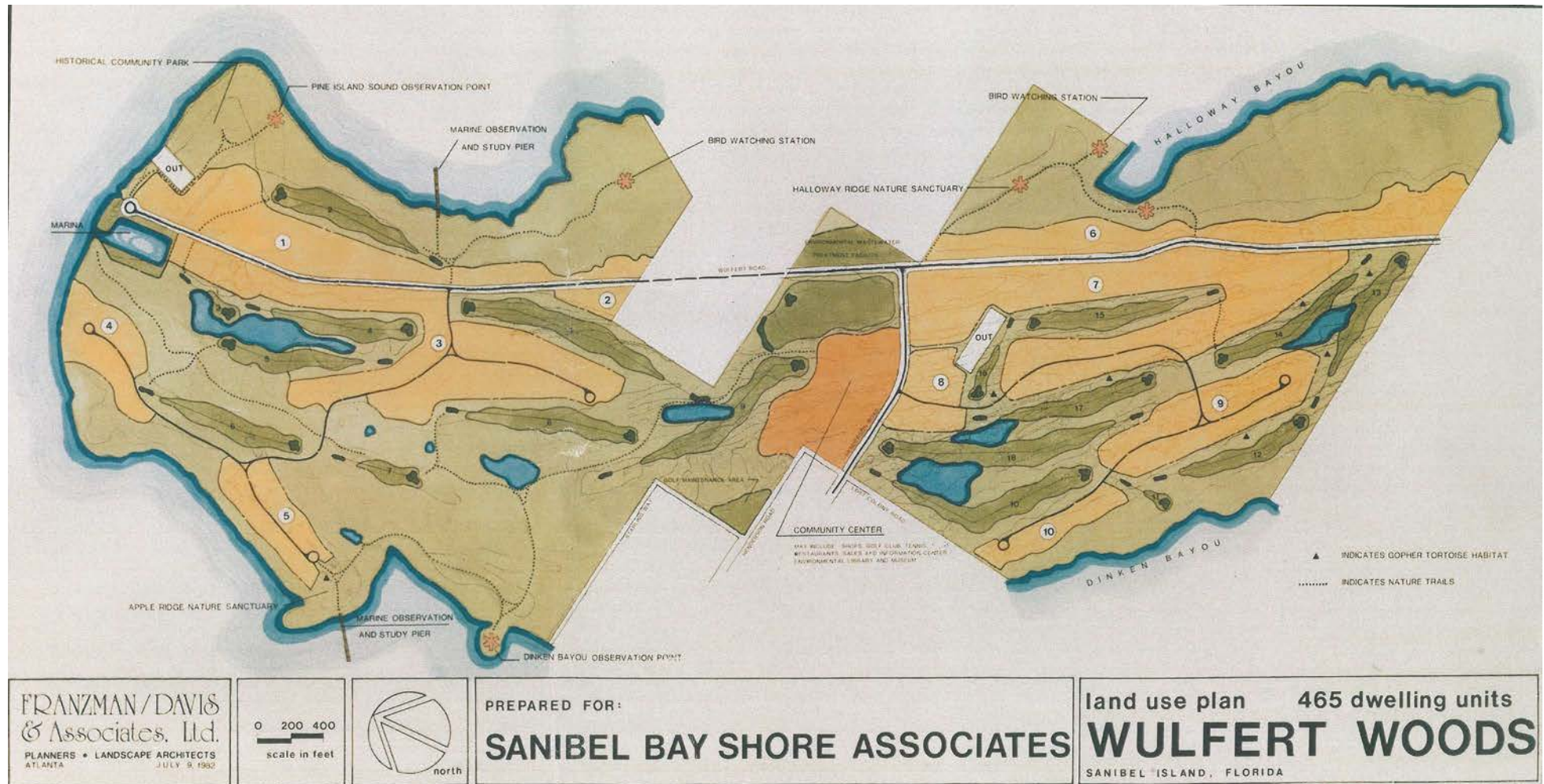
Wulfert Road and Post Office in the 1970s

Wulfert Road was an unpaved road with a single lane. The building that once held the store and post office had fallen into complete disrepair.



1976 Proposal

It was John and Lucy Ruth who envisioned the creation of a high-end golf course and community on their land. Their proposal to the city included a golf course, various amenities (clubhouse, practice range, tennis, marina, pool, retail space), and 1,600 residences. That sounds preposterous today, but in the 1970s, Lee County was planning to zone Sanibel for 95,000 residences, of which some 4,000 would be on Wulfert Point. The city countered that their Comprehensive Land Use Plan would allow only 58 or so residences in the development. Sanibel Bayshore Associates challenged this zoning and sued the city. The law suit dragged on for years. Most Sanibel residents supported the city and did not want to see Wulfert Point developed.



1982 Settlement

Negotiations between the city and Sanibel Bayshore continued until 1982, when a Lee County circuit court judge set a date to settle the dispute. A few weeks before the court date, the two sides reached an out-of court settlement. Residential density was reduced to 465 units; other amenities included a marina, a retail space, tennis courts, and a pool.



BTS Development Corporation

Sanibel Bayshore never intended to develop the Wulfert property themselves. They were investors and began looking for a developer. The one they chose was BTS Development Corporation. BTS, or By The Sea, or jokingly Big Time Spenders, was a local company formed in the early 1980s. The principals were John Naumann, a local realtor and developer (third from left); Jeff Milton, a Washington-based attorney (second from right); and Bill "Doc" Simmons, a retired dentist and investor (far right). BTS successfully developed several Gulf-front condos in the early 1980s. John Ruth liked the quality of their work and their ability to get projects through the city's approval process. BTS bought the Sanibel Bayshore property in 1988 and added another 51 acres by purchasing the remaining Oster property on Wulfert.

T·H·E SANCTUARY



GOLF · CLUB · INC.

Sanibel Island's only championship golf course is currently in the permitting process with the Sanibel Planning Department.

Anticipating city approvals and formal ground breaking in early 1990.

The **Sanctuary Golf Club** is now offering limited **Charter Associate Golf and Tennis Membership**.

These memberships will be restricted to Sanibel & Captiva residents and will be offered only through November 1, 1989.

For details contact William Simmonds at 472-3121 or 1-800/232-6004.



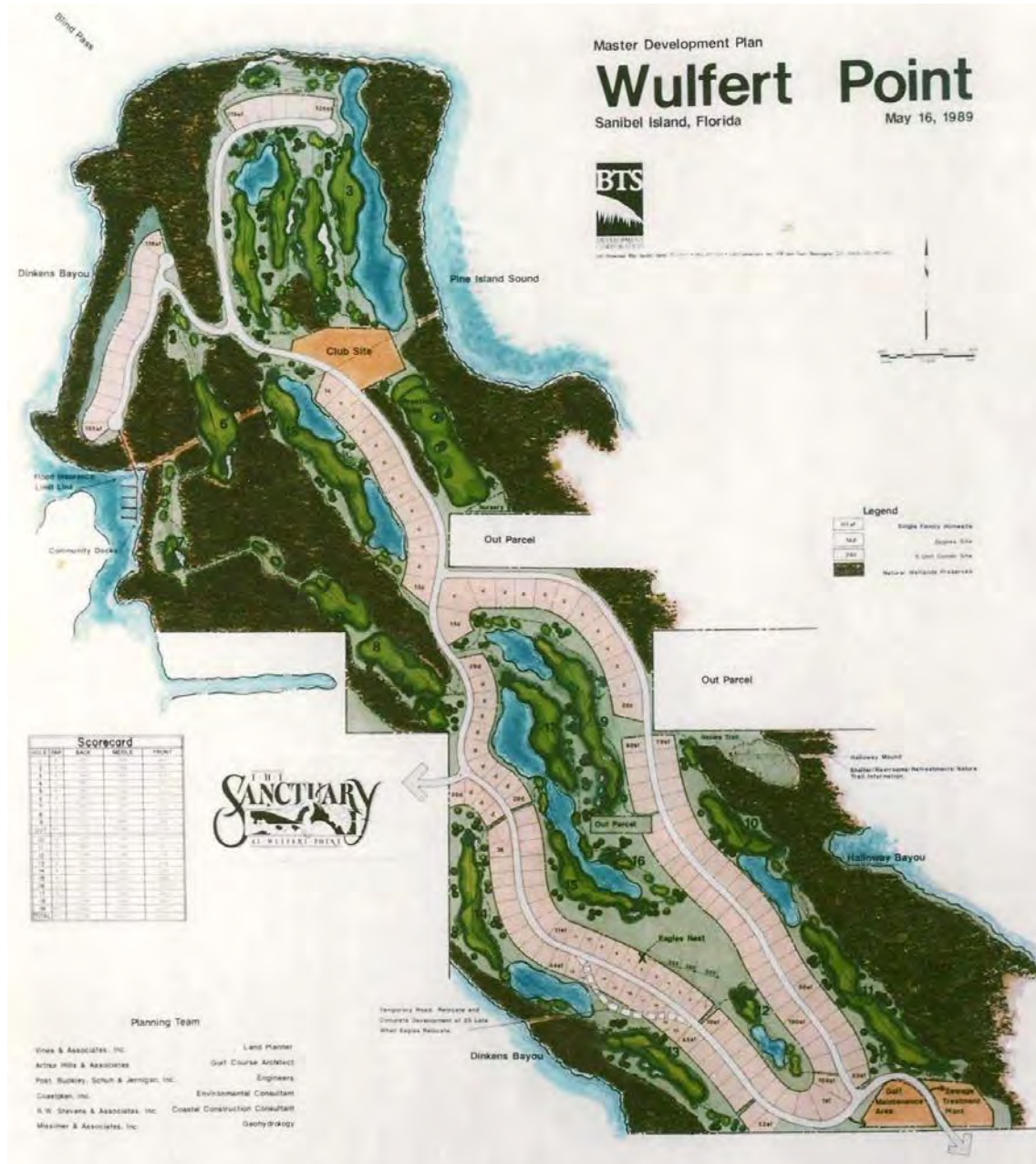
Membership Sales

In March, 1989, BTS incorporated The Sanctuary Golf Club. They chose the name "Sanctuary" to underscore their commitment to respecting the native habitat and wildlife on Wulfert. They started selling memberships and limited partnerships even before they had a development permit from the city. Early memberships sold for \$25,000.



1988 Aerial of Wulfert Point

Wulfert Point in 1988 was completely overgrown. In this photograph, the Wulfert dock is gone, and Chadwick's groves are no longer visible.



May 1989 Permit Application

BTS submitted a permit application in 1989. It differed in several ways from the 1982 settlement. Housing density was reduced to 350 units; the retail space was eliminated. In addition, the old Wulfert Road was replaced by two parallel roads that met near the Mitchell Preserve.



Old Wulfert Road

This aerial photograph shows the old Wulfert Road in red and the current Wulfert Road in white. Rerouting Wulfert Road created a public outcry among Sanibel residents who wanted to preserve the old road as a part of Sanibel's history. This turned out not to be feasible. The old road cut right through SCCF's Mitchell Preserve and was very close to an active eagle's nest. Rerouting the road protected both the nest and the preserve.

There is still a small piece of the old road in the Mitchell Preserve. It goes from Baltusrol through the preserve to the back of the driving range.



1990 Master Development Plan

BTS's 1990 Master Development Plan became the basis for the preliminary development permit for The Sanctuary. The permit - all 29 pages of it - listed the myriad requirements that had to be met before construction could begin. The developer had to obtain approvals from federal, state, and city agencies, as well as from the South Florida Water Management District. The retail space and marina were eliminated. Density was reduced to 288 residential units, in part because 20 acres were donated to SCCF as a buffer for the resident eagles. BTS was required to prepare management plans for these eagles. BTS also had to provide space and special boueloua grass for native gopher tortoises.

After Hurricane Charley in 2004, the Eagle Buffer was cleared of debris and renamed the Gopher Tortoise Preserve.



Eagle Buffer Donation to SCCF

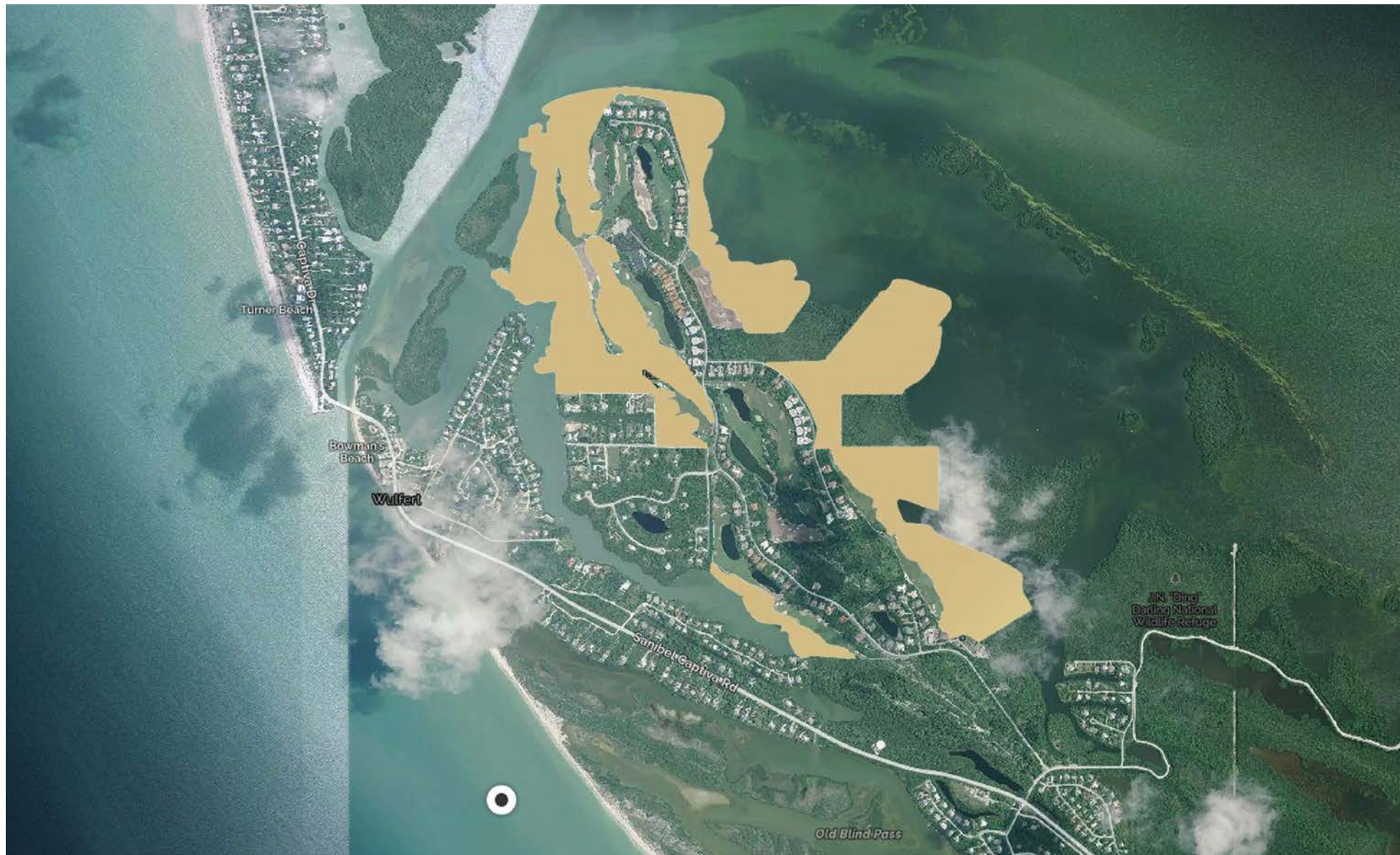
In 1992, BTS donated 20 acres to SCCF. This photograph of the donation includes, from left to right, city planner Ken Pfalzer, SCCF executive director Erick Lindblad, SCCF president Ruth Deuber, and developers Jeff Milton and John Naumann. At the far right is Dr. Steve Mullins, whom the city appointed to supervise the design of the golf course. His job was to protect the native plants and animals on the property. He was influential in the placement of the elevated wood bridge between the 7th green and the 8th tee. He saw to it that construction of the golf course did not disturb very rare joewood plants.



Wulfert Cemetery

Right in the middle of the golf course, between the 16th and 9th greens, is a cemetery. It was established in the early 1900s by Josiah Dinkins, one of the first homesteaders. It is said to contain a monument to his wife Louise, as well as several graves. Oddly enough, both Louise and Josiah are buried in Fort Myers.

Arthur Hills had to design the course around this one-acre parcel. The cemetery is owned by the city and is on the city's register of historical landmarks. It is completely overgrown and full of poison ivy. I walked through part of it in 2017 without seeing any grave markers.



Donations to the "Ding" Darling Refuge

Perhaps the most onerous requirement on the developer was the donation of about 200 acres to the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The donation, nearly half of the developer's land, consisted of the mangrove perimeter around Wulfert Point and interior wetlands. These are highlighted in tan on the above aerial.

The Sanctuary is the only golf course in the US surrounded by a federal refuge. The golf club works cooperatively with the refuge in trimming trees and applying chemicals on the course.

Golfers and residents enjoy extraordinary wildlife sightings on the course because the city and the developer took care to preserve the natural habitat on the Wulfert property.

City Park

Yet another requirement for the developer was to construct a city park at the end of Wulfert Point. It is located near the back tees of the 4th hole and includes a bench and a view over Pine Island Sound. The park has a sign commemorating the early Wulfert settlement and is the only place on the course that is accessible to the public.

The park is located on land owned by the refuge; it is maintained cooperatively by the city and the golf club.





Groundbreaking, 1992

All of the requirements - including a \$250,000 donation by the developer to the city's below market housing program - were met in 1992. In April, BTS held a big groundbreaking celebration. In attendance were island residents, city employees, investors, prospects, the local press, and anyone interested in the club.



Arthur Hills, Course Architect

The renowned golf course architect Arthur Hills spoke at the groundbreaking. When asked how he decided where to build the course, he replied that it was by a process of elimination. He was told where he couldn't build, so he designed the course to fit the space available. He has called The Sanctuary his "island masterpiece."



June 1992 Aerial

By June of 1992, construction was well underway. The maintenance area was built (bottom center.) The new Wulfert Road and holes 13 and 14 were cleared.



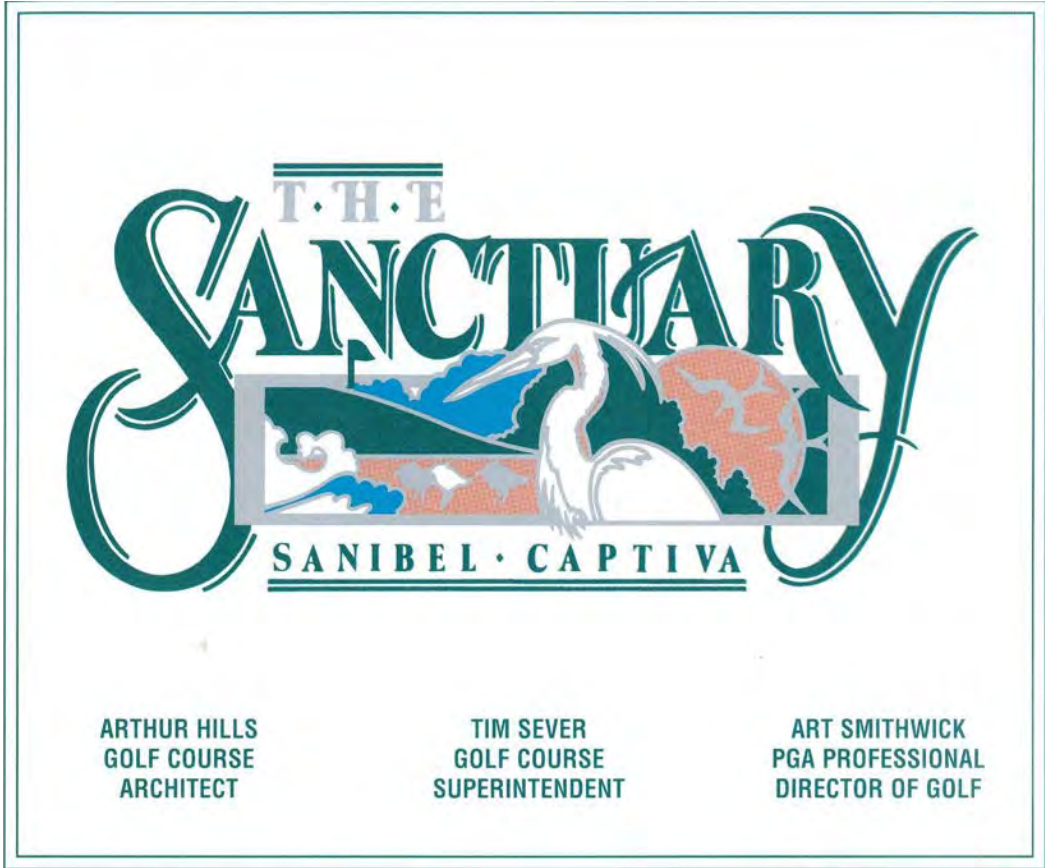
1993 Aerial

The course was opened in 1993. First, holes 9 to 17 were opened to play. By the fall, all 18 holes were completed.



Sales Office

The developer opened a sales office in a double-wide trailer near the maintenance area. Visitors could get information about the development and then tour several model homes on Troon Court. They could also see the lovely par-3 12th hole, the first hole completed on the course.



Scorecard

The first scorecard for The Sanctuary had the Club's multi-colored logo and the names of the key employees.

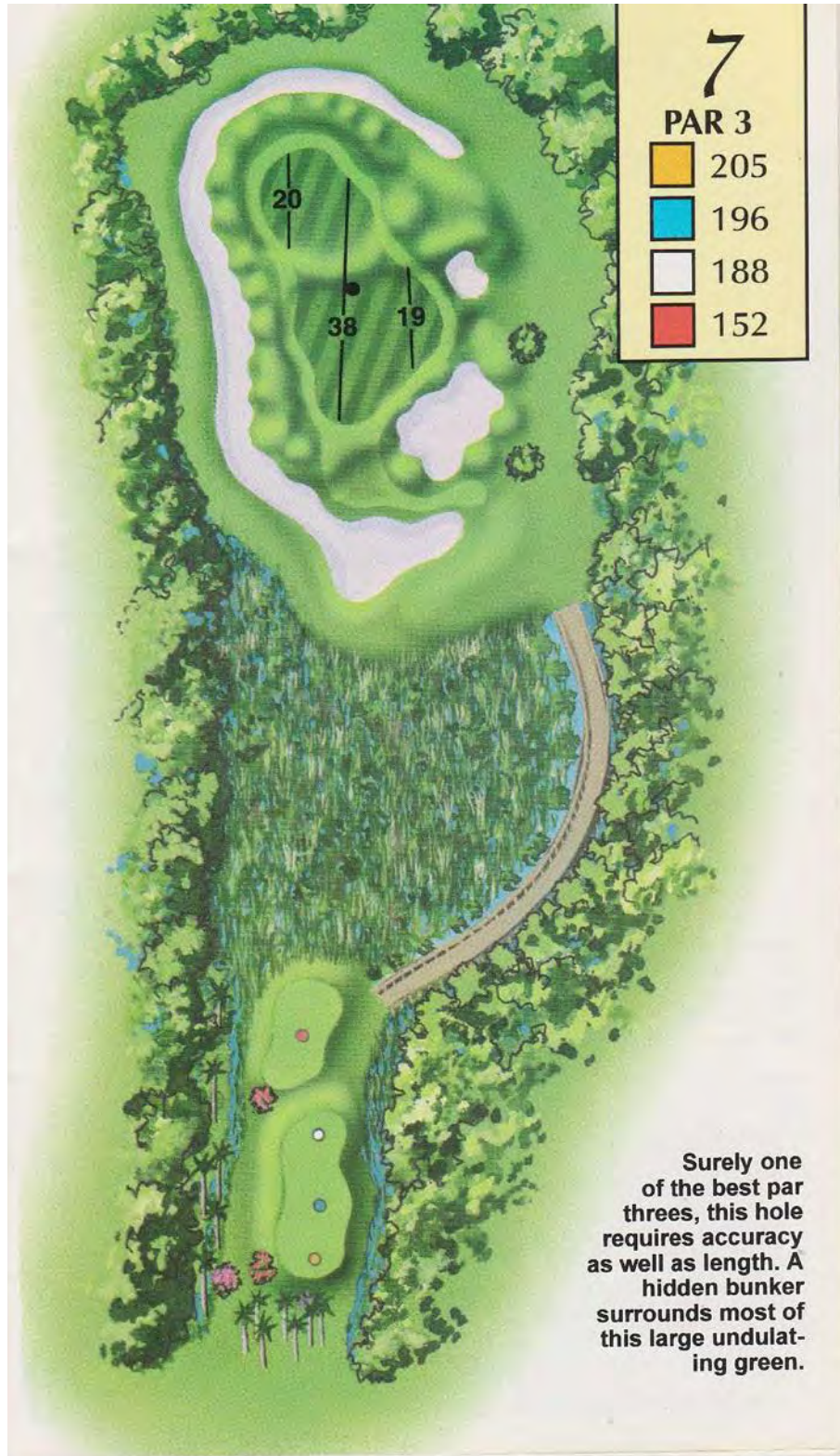
Hole	Gold Tee	Blue Tee	White Tee	Red Tee	Men's Hdcp	Par	Ladies' Hdcp
1	399	389	379	282	9	4	11
2	354	346	324	279	13	4	13
3	410	401	384	301	5	4	7
4	197	190	183	147	17	3	17
5	349	337	321	285	11	4	9
6	532	524	509	435	3	5	3
7	205	196	188	152	15	3	15
8	392	355	339	305	7	4	5
9	566	528	490	456	1	5	1
OUT	3404	3266	3117	2642		36	
10	373	359	325	293	10	4	12
11	398	379	353	342	14	4	14
12	170	159	149	100	16	3	16
13	409	396	367	329	8	4	10
14	532	507	494	446	2	5	2
15	409	393	363	339	12	4	8
16	164	152	142	115	18	3	18
17	440	430	410	314	6	4	6
18	507	497	482	427	4	5	4
IN	3402	3272	3085	2705		36	
TOT	6806	6538	6202	5347		72	



Golf Course Book, 1993

The developer produced a booklet for the course. Note the colors for the men's tees: the longest tee was gold, then came blue and white. The colors were changed after turnover.

Note also that the holes are quite spread out. This design allows the course to avoid environmentally sensitive lands, including the two SCCF tracts, the cemetery, and refuge wetlands.



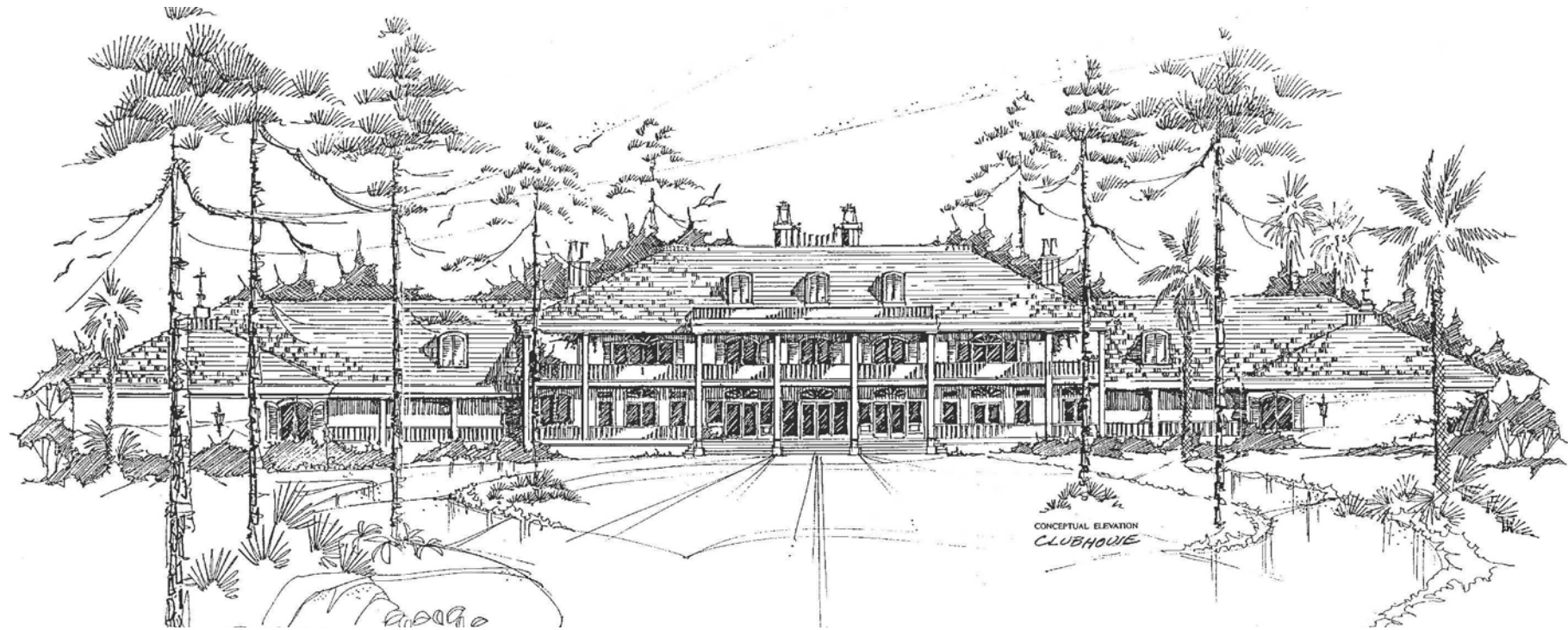
Hole Number 7

The course booklet contained this description of the 7th hole. The original design of the hole featured an enormous bunker that wrapped around the back of the hole and widened out at the front. Any ball that did not carry to the green would usually end up in the big bunker; this left a long sand shot to the green. During the summer of 1994, the widest part of this bunker was filled in and grassed.



Paul Scoggins, Project Manager

BTS chose Paul Scoggins (left) to manage the construction of the golf course and infrastructure. A resident of Fort Myers, Scoggins had extensive experience in golf course development as well as an understanding of working on environmentally sensitive land. He worked closely with Steve Mullins to ensure that the course design and construction respected the environment and met the requirements posed by the city of Sanibel and the "Ding" Darling Refuge. This occasionally involved making modifications to Arthur Hills' design.



Clubhouse Concept

This early design for the clubhouse had the look of a southern plantation.



First Pro Shop

The Club's first pro shop was a small building located where the Ibis condos are today. Next to the pro shop was a tent and a putting green. Golfers teed off on the 9th hole.

Addressing golfers is Art Smithwick. The Club's first director of golf, he was a stickler for detail.



Snackery

The pro shop building was moved to the 10th tee when the Ibis condos were built in 1996. It serves today as the snackery.



Pro Shop in the Clubhouse

The pro shop itself was moved to the clubhouse in 1994. Ed Lockard (left) was one of Art Smithwick's assistants and went on to become The Sanctuary's second director of golf. Smithwick's assistants were well trained, and several have moved on to manage golf programs at other clubs.



Clubhouse Entrance and Veranda

The clubhouse opened in 1994. The upper veranda had a beautiful hand-carved wood bar where golfers enjoyed gathering for a drink after golf.



Clubhouse Bar Today

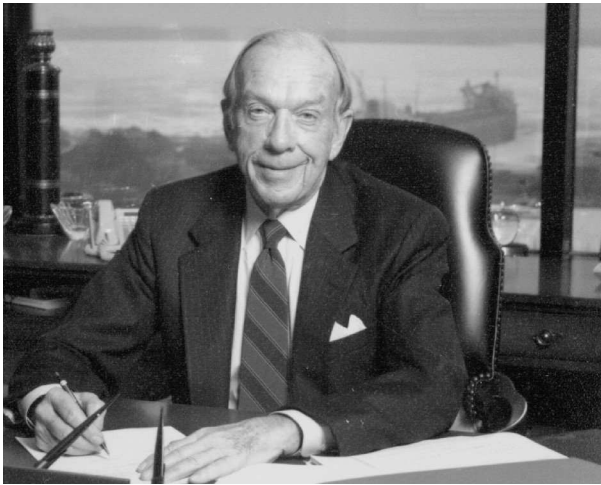
When the clubhouse underwent its first renovation in 2005, all of the furnishings were sold. The bar was purchased by members Pam and Ken Monahan for their home on Wulfert Road.



First Board of Governors

The Club continued to grow. New members joined; houses, condos, and villas were built.

The Club's documents set the turnover date for November 1, 1999. In preparation for this, the equity members voted to establish a turnover committee to represent them in negotiations with the developer. Five members were selected by vote in June, 1998. They were Terry Lautenbach, Art Cassell, John Britton, Bill Harrison, and Bill Kish. They spent many days and hours reviewing by-laws and performing financial due diligence. They inventoried the buildings and equipment and organized the membership documentation. They learned all the details of the club's operations, from budgeting to personnel. They succeeded in turning over the club to the members on time and debt free. The first order of business after turnover was selecting a board of governors. The Club's members chose the five turnover committee members plus three additional members.



The developer John Naumann also served on the board for about a year after turnover. The final settlement with the developer occurred in 2001.



Photos from top left:

Terry Lautenbach, President; Art Cassell, Vice President; John Britton, Secretary; Bill Harrison, Treasurer; Bill Kish; Bob Berendt; Bill Brodbeck; Stokes Fishburne.





Hurricane Charley, 2004

Sanibel was hit by a huge hurricane in 2004. Charley downed trees, broke windows, and sent roof tiles flying. No one was allowed on the island for a week while crews worked to remove trees and downed power lines. Some parts of the island were without electricity for several weeks.

The golf course at The Sanctuary had debris strewn everywhere, but fortunately there was no storm surge and the course was quickly cleaned up. The clubhouse, built to Sanibel's strict codes, survived without major damage.



Regrassing, 2005

The following year, the clubhouse and course underwent substantial renovation.

The course was originally planted with Bermuda grass, a variety that requires overseeding for winter play. Overseeding proved to be expensive, and over time it weakened the Bermuda. In the summer of 2005, the club closed the course, killed off all of the Bermuda, and replaced it with paspalum, a grass developed by the University of Georgia for the southeastern United States. Unlike Bermuda, paspalum stays bright green in cool winter weather.



Clubhouse Renovations, 2005

That same summer, the clubhouse underwent extensive renovation. The interior space was expanded by enclosing some of the verandas around the clubhouse. A second kitchen was installed on the lower level to accommodate the increase in club dining. New furnishings brightened the entryway and the interior, and Jim Sprankle's eagle perched over a new fireplace in the upper veranda.

At the opening party for the season in October, members were welcomed to the refurbished clubhouse.



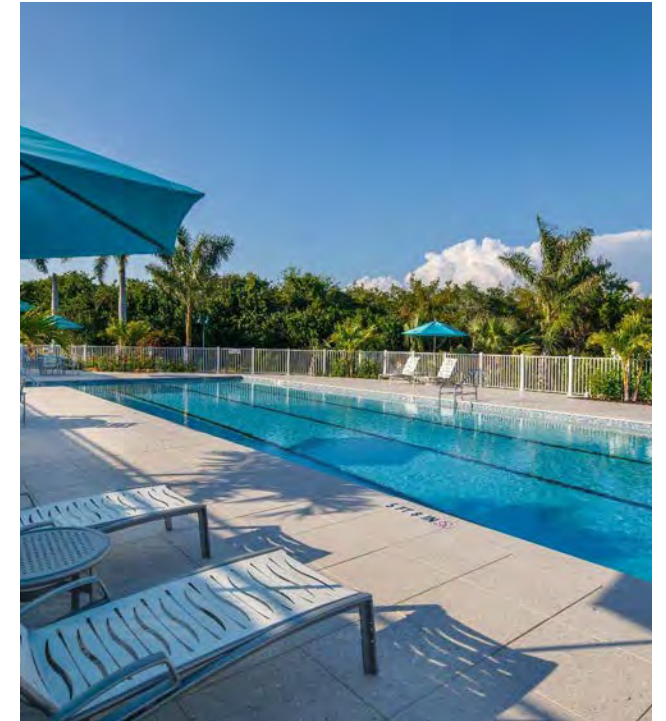
Awards

Over the years, the Club has earned numerous awards for the excellence of its service and its facilities. The golf course became the first course on Sanibel to be certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. The Club's dining and pro shop operations continue to be recognized for their consistent high quality.



Clubhouse Renovations, 2016

2016 saw another complete renovation of the clubhouse interior. The veranda on the side of the clubhouse was refurbished for outdoor dining. Here members can enjoy an expansive view of the golf course.



Wellness Center Opened, January 2017

And finally, in 2017, the small fitness center and pool were removed. In their place are a state-of-the-art fitness facility and heated lap pool. The pool deck provides an elegant setting for evening cocktail parties.



In 2018, The Sanctuary Golf Club celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of the golf course, and 2019 marks the 30th year since the Club was incorporated. Much has happened over that time. The long-abandoned farmland of Wulfert Point was transformed into a magnificent golf club surrounded by a national wildlife refuge. The course challenges golfers of all ages and levels and provides outstanding opportunities to view native Florida wildlife. The recently remodeled clubhouse and fitness facilities are unrivaled. The Club is nationally recognized for the excellence of its operations. The Club's finances are strong, and the demand for memberships continues to grow.

It has been an exciting quarter century. The Club has come a long way and is well positioned for the next 25 years.





