Volume 38, Number 1 Spring 2021

Tortugo Beach

Club

# Greeter-in-Chief

As the resort's front desk clerk for the past ten years, Janeen Williams is the primary go-toperson for questions concerning everything about Tortuga Beach Club. Responsible for sending pre-arrival letters to incoming guests, Janeen is also instrumental in helping our Fridays run smoothly. From coordinating room readiness with housekeepers to maintaining all 10 a.m. checkouts and 3 p.m. check-ins on time, Janeen keeps the process organized and ensures everyone remains on schedule.

Janeen is also dedicated to serving guests with their individual needs, from providing information about available local restaurants or attractions to providing beach equipment, special kitchenware, or assisting with maintenance calls.

She admits that some requests can be unusual but if she can make it happen, she will. Whatever the need, Janeen is eager to assist.

"Being able to greet returning Owners every year is always

Resort Recreation Director JoAnn Malloy displays several new resort merchandise items on sale at the Front Office. Be sure to take some home as a reminder of your resort. Proceeds from the sale of these items helps to fund your resort recreation department.





one of the best parts of my job," says Janeen. "Plus, our team is great to work with. We are much like a small family here, with everyone playing a different role – but coming together to help each other when the needs arise."

A native of Binghamton, New York, she also lived in Sterling, Virginia for about 20 years before moving to Florida in 1984. She was previously an assistant manager at a bank and a bookkeeper for a construction company. The mother of two grown children – a son and a daughter –

Janeen lives in Cape Coral with four of her five grandchildren (ages 5-14) and their parents. Her son lives in California. When not working, she is an avid reader, enjoying all types of books.

# Around the Resort

• Former Resort Manager Nick Mintier has left our resort and moved out of state, where he has taken a new position to be near is elderly mother. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

• The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant delays in the shipping of various resort supplies, such as paper towels and appliance parts. Some refrigerators – which were scheduled to be installed in December – are about six weeks late. Dick Stuurwold, maintenance supervisor, also reports that he has been waiting for dishwasher parts since July. We appreciate your patience as we wait for these items to arrive.

• Tortuga Beach Club continues to implement HGV's Enhanced Care Guidelines. Under this company-wide initiative, elevated cleaning steps are taken, including the extra sanitization of all flat surfaces, and common touch points like doors and handles. While this additional cleaning takes time, your Home Resort Team Members continue to focus on having your unit ready by the designated 3 p.m. check-in time.

• To save your association money on postage, we invite all Owners to opt-in for email communications! This will enable Owners to manage their communication preferences on the HGV Club website. After you have registered, don't forget to check your junk or spam inbox to ensure receipt of future notices. To opt-in, visit: club.hiltongrandvacations.com/en/sign-up.



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### Hilton Grand Vacations Owner Services

Phone: 407-613-3144 or 800-932-4482 Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Sunday closed.

### **Tortuga Office**

959 East Gulf Drive Sanibel, FL 33957 Phone: 239-472-0400 Fax: 239-472-6540 Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Saturday–Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Allison.Foster@hgv.com Janeen.Williams@hgv.com Tortuga.hgvc.com (website)

### Sales Associate

Lisa Snider Lisa.Snider@hgv.com 239-472-0161

### Meet Charlie Greene

For Charlie Greene, of Adrian, Michigan, Sanibel Island is the ideal place to be in February. "It's hard to argue with 80-degree temperatures," says Greene, adding that the temperate climate and beautiful setting helps abate his long wait for spring back home in Michigan. The grounds are beautiful, the beach is quiet and inviting and the staff is great to work with. Janeen has always been very helpful."

Now a retired stockbroker, Charlie has been visiting the island for 20 years and has been a two-week Owner since 2014, often joined by various family members. He shares that the option to play golf at The Dunes was a definite purchase motivation.





Tortuga Beach Club will be replacing the pool deck and resurfacing the swimming pool and spa – we anticipate that the work will begin on May 14 and run through May 28, 2021. During this project, the pool, spa and Clubhouse will be inaccessible. Completion of the project will be dependent upon both weather and any unforeseeable challenges.

Owners and guests staying on the property during the closure will have access to the pool at nearby Loggerhead Cay. Owners and guests may also use the pool at The Dunes Golf Club. To access the pool at The Dunes, you will need

### to stop by the office and obtain an access card. Please be advised that neither Tortuga Beach Club Condominium Association, Inc. nor Hilton Grand Vacations Management, LLC or their affiliates own or manage these pools. Thus, use of these pools is solely at your own risk.

Please be aware that construction noise and sights can occur during regular business hours until the project is complete. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time, and we are excited to improve the pool area for Tortuga Beach Club's future!

# From Your Board

The Tortuga Beach Club board of directors has initiated a review and update to the property's Bylaws, Articles, of Incorporation and Declaration ownership documents. These documents are in their original format and need to be reviewed and updated.

The board expects to have the review and update completed by early fall of 2021. The proposed revisions will then go to the Owners for review with Q&As delivered by the end of the year. The board will then get the final recommended changes to these documents distributed by mail to all Owners for a vote at the 2022 Annual Owners meeting.

### **Michael Laird**

Tortuga Beach Club Condominium Association, Inc. Board of Directors

# **Australian Pine Removed**

There has been an Australian Pine on the Tortuga property for as long as Maintenance Supervisor Dick Stuurwold can remember, and Dick has been with the resort for 25 years. Estimated to be 50 years old, the 125-foot tree featured a trunk that measured about three feet in diameter.

"We cut it back about ten years ago," Dick said, "but we could see signs of serious decay and knew it was time to go. The shallow root system spread out 15 feet from the tree. During a major storm, the roots would not be strong enough to sustain the height of the tree, which could topple to the ground, roots and all. As the tree continued to grow, it became a potential hazard to the resort and Building A."

Dick hired Sanibel's only certified arborist, Tree West, which confirmed that the tree was rapidly decaying. Due to the tree's location, they were unable to drive heavy equipment beside it. Instead, two men worked for three and a half days leading the controlled take down of the giant tree. The workers wore helmets and used all safety precautions as they climbed higher and higher, sawing off branch after branch.

Smaller pieces went into the wood chipper and a machine picked up the larger pieces, loading them onto a nearby truck. After the tree was cut down, everyone could see that the decay in the center of the 3-foot-wide trunk measured almost 2-feet, making it a serious hazard had the tree been blown over by a storm. Thankfully, this did not happen.

"Owners watching by the pool were enthralled with the process," adds Dick. "It was the kind of large project you don't want to do every day, but we knew it had to happen." Hats off to Dick for recognizing the need for the tree's removal and safely organizing the project!

# **About Australian Pines**

The Australian pine is a non-native tree found throughout South Florida and parts of Central Florida. Also known as a Casuarina, they can grow up to 150-feet tall. A native of Australia, South Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia, they were introduced to Florida in the late 1890s as a salt-tolerant tree that could provide shade and serve as a windbreak along coastal areas. They were widely planted around canals and agricultural fields. Because they are resistant to salt spray and can grow close to sea water, they have invaded thousands of acres of southeastern and southwestern coastal areas of Florida.

Today, Australian Pines have become a major problem and are basically considered invasive. They are aggressive growers that spread into natural areas and smother native plants under their heavy blanket of needle-like litter. The State of Florida prohibits people from cultivating or planting them.

Australian Pines have also invaded South Florida's hammock and tree island communities in the Everglades. Because of shallow root systems, they tend to uproot and topple during high winds and pose a significant hazard to coastal storm evacuation routes. They can encourage beach erosion by displacing deep-rooted vegetation. Their dense shallow root system interferes with the ability of the endangered sea turtles to construct coastal nests.







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# Sales by Lisa

As of press time, Lisa reported that resort sales and rentals are still very strong. She shared that the cruise industry had cancelled most excursions until the end of the year. For the tourism industry, this translates to Florida continuing to remain a popular drive-to vacation destination. It also means a high interest in family vacations on Sanibel and at Tortuga Beach Club. This is a benefit for Owners who choose to rent, as prospective renters will recognize the value of not having to pay parking or resort fees, which are often be found with stays at large hotels.

For Owners desiring to purchase consecutive weeks, don't forget to put your preference on Lisa's Wish List. Anyone who purchases at Tortuga Beach Club will receive a beach towel with the Hilton Grand Vacations logo.

With the increased emphasis on internet sales, Grand Vacations Realty lists weeks at Tortuga Beach Club on various websites. Owners seeking specific weeks should contact Lisa by phone at 239-472-0161 or by email: Lisa.Snider@hgv.com.



# **Trading Post**

• Arlene Tompkins would like to trade Week 20, Unit 115 for any week 15-18, 37-44 or 50, 2021. Call her at 239-822-7167.

• Ross Brown would like to trade Week 34, Unit 139, for any week in June or early August, 2021. Contact him at rossbrown89@yahoo.com.

• Kim McKee would like to trade Weeks 28 & 29 for weeks 31 & 32. Contact her at 309-255-4696 or via ka-mckee@wiu.edu.

## Beautification Memorials

The Beautification Fund was established several years ago to help pay for flower and plant replacements that are outside of our budget. We would like to thank Kathleen Laird who donated a gift in memory of Stew Laird. All contributions to the fund help keep our property beautiful.