

# Tennis and Pickleball



Mike Lawver was hired by S&S Management as Director of Tennis at Heritage Palms on March 13, 2000. The six-court facility and small pro shop had been completed several months prior. All clay courts were lighted and had four water jugs servicing the courts plus a Playmate ball machine. Within the first few months several facility improvements were made: benches for the players, pro shop counters, and a canvas shade structure between courts #1 and #2 for spectators.



**Mike and Carolyn Lawver July 2011**

Initially there were 13 member-tennis players using the courts several times a week. To jump start the program we offered a non-resident Tennis membership. This is a common practice with developers of similar country clubs. Within the first two years we recruited over 100 non-resident members. We had also organized many Ladies' and men's Lee County and USTA teams. The success of the program also attracted an equal number of new HP tennis playing residents. With this rapid growth Lennar/US Homes added two lighted courts (#7 & #8) along with an adjacent parking lot. The two courts were originally planned to be installed at the lodge. Having the eight courts all together allowed for us to field two league matches at the same time and run larger events. It also made daily maintenance manageable.

We were getting close to maximum capacity and therefore eliminated any new non-resident memberships. Fast forward, several years later after raising the membership dues multiple times plus natural attrition our tennis playing membership was at its busiest ever though we had only 20 outside members left. Our tennis program has stabilized and continues today with a similar number of active players.

We were getting close to maximum capacity and therefore eliminated any new non-resident memberships. Fast forward, several years later after raising the membership dues multiple times plus natural attrition our tennis playing membership was at its busiest ever though we had only 20 outside members left. Our tennis program has stabilized and continues today with a similar number of active players.

# Ladies' Tennis Leagues

1<sup>st</sup> season: 4 Teams

2<sup>nd</sup> season: 7 Teams

Average 10 – 12 teams per year

2000 – 2020: 200 Total Teams



**2011 Heritage Palms Spring Doubles  
Challenge  
Winner Ruby Division**

## Women's 3.5 Tennis Team



**2014-2015 season: 2nd place in Lee County Sportsmanship Award**

**Lee County Women's Tennis in 2016.**

L - R: Gwen Berestecki, Connie Rosellini, Becky Hurwitz, Phyllis Welsh, Sue Bauerschmidt, Karen Mazzula, Dorothy Slovak, Cheryl Somers, Captain Lucille Zaccardo, Mary Houska, Tennis Pro Carolyn Lawver, and Director of Tennis Mike Lawver.

## Women's 3.5 Tennis Team 2019



The 3.5 tennis team relaxing after an away match at the Cape Coral Yacht Club.

Back row (L-R): Donna Gray, Rita Barry, Maggie DeBonis, and Eileen Spinola.  
Front row (L-R): Janice Cox, Mary Lou Kreis, Lynda Dechert, and Phyllis Welsh.

# Men's Tennis Leagues

1<sup>st</sup> 3 seasons: Men  
Undefeated

Average 7 teams per year





**2011 Heritage Palms Spring Doubles  
Challenge  
Finalist Sapphire Division**

# Heritage Palms Tennis

## Singles Champions

Year	Men	Women
2002	Rich Gallo	Stacie Potanovic
2003	Jeff Jewitt	Stacie Potanovic
2004	Steve Pollock	Gretta Storrs
2005	Steve Pollock	Rachel Polakoff
2006	Bob Green	Jennifer Heatherington
2007	Eric Critt	Carol Green
2008	Steve Callaway	Wendy Hechler
2009	Steve Callaway	Jennifer Heatherington
2010	Steve Callaway	Wendy Hechler
2011	Gary Rogers	Stacie Potanovic
2012	Rich Wood	Stacie Potanovic
2013	Mark L	Paula Meihaus
2014	Rich Wood	Paula Meihaus
2015	Rich Wood	Debbie Wells
2016	Jeff Hossler	Jeff Hossler
2017	Jeff Hossler	Kirsten Shovlin
2018	Jeff Hossler	Kim Digangi
2019	Mark Lohr	Brenda Gosselin
2020		
2021	Mark Wood	
2022	Rob Shovlin	Michelle Rogers

# Heritage Palms Tennis

## Doubles Champions

Year	Men	Women	Mixed
2002	Larry Parvin Ralph Hicks	Valerie Petracco Marilda Monserrate	Bob Smat Lorraine Smat
2003	Bob Smat Hugh Marshall	Marcia O'Neil Sylvia DeFalco	Joe Pare Carol Pare
2004	Dave Gran Tom Guzik	Chris Buzenius Lisa Steele	Hugh Marshall Esther Marshall
2005	Bob Russel Hugh Marshall	Georgia Freiswick Patty Gedra	Rich Gallo Jennifer Heatherington
2006	Bob Russell Hugh Marshall	Chris Buzenius Lisa Steele	Hugh Marshall Esther Marshall
2007	Earl Claypool Hugh Marshall	Marilyn Warner Jennifer Heatherington	Earl Claypool Marilyn Warner
2008	Earl Claypool Bob Russell	Marilyn Warner Jennifer Heatherington	Steve Callaway Peggy Henry
2009	Tom Guzik Art Ramirez	Marilyn Warner Jennifer Heatherington	Steve Callaway Peggy Henry
2010	John Deresky Joe Pare	Marilyn Warner Jennifer Heatherington	Steve Callaway Peggy Henry
2011	Scott Wells Rich Wood	Peggy Henry Jodie Ellis	Jon Hurwitz Becky Hurwitz
2012	Scott Wells Rich Sherwood	Kathy Hazard Sue Ribiero	Steve Callaway Peggy Henry

# Heritage Palms Tennis

## Doubles Champions

Year	Men	Women	Mixed
2013	Mike Haffey Steve Pollack	Marcia Leadbetter Marilyn Warner	Walter Belcher Ellen Belcher
2014	Mark Lohr Rich Wood	Debbie Wells Paula Meihaus	Rich Wood Zoe Wood
2015	Mark Lohr Rich Wood	Debbie Wells Zoe Wood	Rich Wood Zoe Wood
2016	Mike Haffey Bill Dunn	Debbie Wells Paula Meihaus	John Deresky Helen Deresky
2017	Rich Wood Mark Lohr	Sharon McGrath Nancy Johnson	Jim St. John Sandy Piazza
2018	Mark Wood Gary Rodgers	Kirsten Shovlin Sandy Piazza	Rob Shovlin Kirsten Shovlin
2019	Adrian Stevens Daniel Camacho	Sandy Piazza GiGi Labrun	Mark Wood Gwen Berestecki
2020	Gary Rodgers Scott Wells	Sandy Piazza Debbie Wells	Daniel Camacho Yolanda Ramirez
2021	Adrian Stevens Daniel Camacho	Sandy Piazza Michelle Rogers	Paul Ingram Michelle Rogers
2022	Rudy Mathis Gary Rodgers	Nancy Johnson Michelle Rogers	Paul Ingram Michelle Rogers

# History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms

Pickleball started at Heritage Palms in 2012, when residents Kathy Moore and Jane Simon brought in a Pickleball Pro for an informational session with instructions at the Lodge.



# Pickleball History at Heritage Palms

At the Lodge in 2012. The sport took off from there.



# History of Pickleball at Heritage Palms

In 2014 the courts were moved to the parking lot where the Activity Center is now.



# History of Pickleball History at Heritage Palms

As the sport became popular, and the pickleball parking lot space became the Activity Center, a movement began to have regulation PB courts built here. After much discussion and research, two courts were opened at the corner of Washingtonia and Queen Palm in 2019. From day one, the two courts have remained busy with members willing to wait 30-45 minutes for a court during morning open play, and afternoon reservations were consistently full during season.



**Two new Pickleball courts  
open - March 9, 2019**