

# carolinasgolf



## PACE OF PLAY

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› **SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY**  
FATHER-SON, PARENT-CHILD  
EVENTS CROSS GENERATIONS

› **MYSTERY OF BLOWING ROCK**  
DEBATE CONTINUES OVER WHO  
DESIGNED COURSE IN N.C.

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# Picking up the Pace

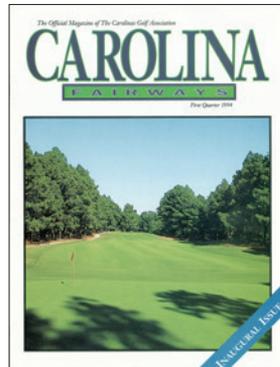
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# On 20 Years & Eternal Appreciation

/ by J. RICHARD DOSEK, President, Carolinas Golf Association

› **Twenty years ago, the first ESPYs were presented, celebrating outstanding achievement in sports.**



› **The inaugural issue.**

In addition, that year offered up “The Sandlot,” a cinematic celebration of youth and our national pastime. Also, the first issue of this magazine appeared in your mailbox.

For two decades, you’ve received this periodical as a membership benefit. Four times annually, *Carolinan Golf* delivers articles on such topics as courses, competitions, interesting families, and accomplished individuals from across the Carolinas.

Today, we are up to our thumbs in digital information. “The need to know” has become “the need to know now.” Nevertheless, we hear from you that you appreciate *Carolinan Golf*. We intend to keep it coming your way and hope you continue to enjoy it.

› **Appreciation for Volunteers**

As 2013 winds down, it’s appropriate to recognize the CGA volunteers who have been instrumental in the CGA’s success.

We have one of the most competent professional staffs in the country. Despite their qualifications, the staff cannot accomplish their tasks without help from scores of volunteers. Most serve as tournament officials or course raters or both, coming from all parts of the Carolinas. Some are young; some are older. Some are retired; some wish they were. Some are accomplished players; some think they are.

They are united in their passion for golf. They enjoy seeing it played at a high level and being a part of the spirit of competition. They have an interest in the intricacies and complexities of the game and its rules. They are unafraid to put in the time required to do so.

Tournament officials get up in the dark to see that the first players start on time and then get home after dark — and then do it all over again. They understand the game is played outdoors, that they will likely get cold in winter, hot in the summer, and wet anytime. They know that in scary weather, it’s more important to help others get to safety first. They sometimes have to present a player with unpleasant information — and strive to do it in a respectful manner.

Course raters perform a seldom-recognized service, used by Carolinas golfers every time we play. Working in trained teams, raters take as long to rate a course as a group of four takes to play it. They evaluate each hole, look at every feature with an analytical eye, and record a numerical value to each one. After each hole, they reconcile the values. At the end of the day, they have collected data needed to assign a set of tees its proper ratings.

So here’s to the volunteers. As you are told at your annual training sessions, the CGA cannot do it without you. Thank you, for all the things you do and for the way in which you do them!

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- Tournament Coordinator / Rita Longest
- Office Manager / Johnnie Gebhardt
- Administrative Assistant / Judy Wimmer

**CGA Office:**

Phone: (910) 673-1000 / Fax: (910) 673-1001  
carolinanagolf.org or admin@carolinanagolf.org

<b>Mailing Address:</b>	<b>Physical Address:</b>
CGA, P.O. Box 319 West End, NC 27376	CGA, 135 N. Trade St. West End, NC 27376

### Executive Committee Members

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## 'Footprints on the Green' Changing Lives

› McConnell Golf's 18-month-old "Footprints on the Green" volunteer program is off to a strong start. Designed for members and staff to volunteer and help enrich the lives and environment of those around them, the program has already seen more than 115 employees give at least 40 hours in 2013.

McConnell Golf volunteers (above) have helped provide more than 500 pounds of food for food banks, created 43 blankets for Project Linus, participated in building a home for Habitat for Humanity, assisted

during a Habitat ReStore event, hosted the 5K Run for Urban Ministries, collected more than 300 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls, and helped with the Special Olympics. McConnell properties also host a number of charity tennis, golf, and social events.

McConnell Golf Clubs (all CGA member clubs) include, in North Carolina, Raleigh CC, two courses at Sedgefield CC, Old North State Club, TPC Wakefield Plantation, and Treyburn CC; in South Carolina, Musgrove Mill GC and The Reserve GC.

### › Two from SC selected for IJGT Euro Cup in Scotland

Yuki Nakayama (top), of Bluffton, S.C., and Nicholas Russell (bottom), of Hilton Head Island, S.C., were selected to participate in the International Junior Golf Tour's Euro Cup held July 31-Aug. 2 in St. Andrews, Scotland.

The two were among 14 players from 10 states competing for IJGT Team USA vs. the Canadian Junior Golf Association and The FIFE (Scotland). The competition included six rounds (three practice, three competitive) at Scotsraig GC, Leven GC, and Drumoig GC.



### › Inaugural Carolinas Girls' High School Challenge Sept. 20

The Peggy Kirk Bell Girls' Tour and the CGA have formed the Carolinas Girls' High School Challenge. An 18-hole stroke play tournament for public and private high school girls' golf teams from the Carolinas, the first will be held on the Black/Orange nines at Keith Hills CC in Buies Creek, N.C., on Friday, Sept. 20.

Twenty teams are expected to compete on the Ellis Maples-designed course that has hosted a variety of tournaments since it opened in 1974. Visit [tygajuniorgolf.org](http://tygajuniorgolf.org) or call (910) 673-1000.



### › High-Rising Courses

In the summer 2013 issue of *Carolinas Golf*, two North Carolina mountain courses should have been mentioned in an article on courses that rise higher than 4,000 feet above sea level ("Sky High," Page 14). Trillium Links and Lake Club in Cashiers, (below top), features several holes above the magic mark, as does Wolf Laurel Country Club in Mars Hill (bottom photo).



### › 'Summer Camp for Adults'

While the Mountain Air community near Asheville offers traditional summer day camps, craft workshops, and the like for children, it doesn't overlook adults.

Every summer, adults can participate in activities that capitalize on the community's mountain setting: zip-line tours, fly fishing trips, a "Happy Hikers" club, and water paddling expeditions. Residents also maintain an organic garden.



There's plenty of links action, too. Besides Sunday couples scrambles, competitions include the Couples Member-Guest and the Parham Shoot-Out, in which the final 10 players who qualify take turns being eliminated each hole on the back nine to arrive at a champion on the 18th. (Pictured: A golf fundraiser for local firefighters.)



### › Carolinas Figure Strongly in Management Programs

Of 20 Professional Golf Management (PGM) university programs in the U.S., one-quarter are in the Carolinas.

PGM schools prepare aspiring Professional Golf Association professionals for careers in the golf industry, while also providing classes to meet general college bachelor's degree requirements. The five sanctioned universities in the Carolinas — Clemson, North Carolina State, Campbell, Coastal Carolina, and Methodist — offer a mix of classroom studies and internship experiences.

Depending on the college, students might focus additional studies on hospitality, recreation and tourism, business, finance, marketing, economics, and accounting. Most of those who graduate go on to successful careers in golf.



### › Lonnie Poole Course Receives Audubon Nod

North Carolina State University's Lonnie Poole Golf Course has become a certified Audubon International Signature Golf Sanctuary and member of the organization's Signature Program.

Located on NC State's Centennial Campus, the Poole course meets qualifications for fitting managed turfgrass seamlessly into the environment. Surrounded by wetlands, the golf course also serves as a living lab for sustainable turfgrass management and environmental stewardship.

# Stress on the Greens

## COOL, WET WEATHER LEADS TO DISEASE ON SOME COURSES

written by / LEON T. LUCAS, CGA AGRONOMIST

Unusually cool and wet weather this spring and early summer brought out some things old and new in Carolinas putting greens — **disease**.

Weather conditions determine how well grasses grow and the resulting quality of putting surfaces. While bentgrass greens did well during the cool spring, a simultaneous large amount of rain caused soil to become too wet. Roots do not grow well in saturated soil. These conditions could make roots more susceptible to heat and drought stresses later in the summer when the weather is hot and dry.

Superintendents know that improving grass survival after such periods of stress makes their job tougher. Extra aeration in late June during the very wet weather was the best thing that superintendents could have done to help improve growing conditions for bentgrass. The small, open holes help keep sod and soil near the surface drier. More air in the soil also improves root growth and survival.

More fertilizer applications were needed because many of the nutrients leached out of sandy soils. Even soil penetrant-type wetting agents were needed to help “move the excessive water” through the soil.

Bermudagrass greens, which need sun and high temperatures, also suffered. Leaf spot disease that appeared last fall resulted in thin grass, and some greens with a lot of winter play had turf quality that was not acceptable to visitors or members.

Bermudagrass greens “greened up” early in warm conditions, but did not grow well in the cool weather of March, April, and May. Turf remained thin from lack of growth and wear from mowing, rolling, and golfers.

Warmer weather in early June meant bermudagrass greens grew better, but subsequent long periods of cloudy weather were not favorable for growth. Spring dead spot disease, which appears as circular dead spots some 6-12 inches in diameter, appeared on some of our courses. The disease developed even when recommended fungicides had been applied in the fall. I suggest placing some healthy plugs of bermudagrass in the larger spots to help hasten recovery.



On several courses I visited, bermudagrass died from hydrophobic dry soil despite the wet weather. That means the soil becomes dry in areas and is difficult to wet. On one course, the top half-inch of soil was even dry the day after one inch of rain.

Wetting agents are needed to keep the soil moist, especially in the fall and spring. Dry soil in the fall will make the grass more susceptible to cold damage, and these grasses cannot grow in dry soil in the spring. Dry soil becomes even more of an issue as superintendents try to keep the putting surface dry and firm for faster speeds.

Some bermudagrass greens have seen a disease called mini-ring, which is difficult to control with fungicides. Signs of new diseases were observed on greens that were overseeded for better color and putting conditions in the early spring. Those included small circular depressed and dead spots (about the size of a softball) that appeared in early summer. Bruce Martin at Clemson University is trying to identify the causes.

Small dead streaks of bermudagrass have developed on other greens. This might be caused by a pythium fungus. It will take some time for research projects to determine actual causes and develop effective control programs.

I expect more interesting developments in the late summer months, because things always change in turf management. We try to make the best decisions based on previous experience. However, weather is the controlling factor and never stays the same.

Remember, the weather was very hot and dry in June last year. It was more favorable for the growth of bermudagrass. It was cool and wet this June and bentgrass grew well.

Growing good quality grasses on golf greens at very low mowing heights is always interesting. Some consider it a great challenge.

But even with these new and evolving problems, golfers in the Carolinas still enjoy very good putting greens for long periods.

➤ CGA staff agronomist **Leon T. Lucas** is available to help CGA member clubs with their turfgrass dilemmas. Contact him at (919) 779-3241 or [leon.lucas@carolinagolf.org](mailto:leon.lucas@carolinagolf.org).

# carolinasgolf

**Executive Publisher /** Michael Dann  
michael.dann@carolinasgolf.org

**Associate Publisher /** Edward J. Peabody  
epeabody@hour-media.com

**Managing Editor /** Kathy Gibbons  
kgibbons@hour-media.com

**Copy Editor /** John S. Schultz

**Design Director /** Ken Cendrowski  
kcendrowski@hour-media.com

**Graphic Design Intern /** Sara Earl

**Production Director /** Jon Reynolds

**Senior Production Artist /** Robert Gorczyca

**Production Artist /** Stephanie Brossy

**Contributors /** Dave Alexander, Michael Dann,  
Craig Distl, Kevin Fales, Bob Gillespie, Bill Hensley,  
Leon Lucas, Don McKenzie, Betsey Mitchell

## Advertising Account Executives

Andy Walters  
(248) 691-1800, ext. 104 • awalters@hour-media.com

David Norman  
(804) 747-4971 • DNorman008@gmail.com

**Ad Coordinator /** Catherine Milligan  
(248) 691-1800, ext. 128 • cmilligan@hour-media.com

**CEO /** Stefan Wanczyk **President /** John Balardo

**HOUR**  
CUSTOM PUBLISHING

117 West Third St.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
**Phone /** (248) 691-1800 **Fax /** (248) 691-4531

Address changes and subscription information  
should go to Carolinas Golf,  
P.O. Box 319, West End, NC 27376-0319  
or admin@carolinasgolf.org.

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

### Nationwide Partnership Benefits CGA Members

A partnership between the Carolinas Golf Association (CGA) and Nationwide Insurance means CGA members have access to special member discounts on auto, home, power sports, and pet insurance, in addition to various health and life products.



PGA Tour professional Bill Haas, who lives in Greenville, S.C., sees the value such a partnership can create. In 2003, Haas was named a Richard S. Tufts Player of the Year in the CGA, before permanently joining the PGA in 2006. He won the AT&T National earlier this summer.

"I'm thrilled to see the CGA and Nationwide Insurance work together," said Haas, the 2011 FedEx Cup champion and former CGA champion. "The collaboration to enhance the benefits for CGA members with a business and community leader like Nationwide Insurance is a win for both parties."

CGA members are entitled to a free, no-obligation quote if they contact a Nationwide Insurance agent in their area or by calling 866-238-1426. Visit [www.carolinasgolf.org/nationwide](http://www.carolinasgolf.org/nationwide) for more information.



### > Pinehurst to Convert Greens on Three More Courses

Pinehurst Resort & Country Club is converting greens on three more courses to ultradwarf bermudagrass. Following the successful conversion of No. 1 Course's greens in 2012, Pinehurst this year is converting No. 8 and No. 3. The greens on No. 2 Course are next in July 2014, following the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open in consecutive weeks.

"Bermudagrass has ... become a great option for the North Carolina climate," said Bob Farren, Pinehurst director of grounds and golf course maintenance.

### WELCOME NEW CGA MEMBER CLUB

**Calhoun Golf Club**  
Charlotte, N.C.



# A Title for His Birthday

RALEIGH'S CARTER JENKINS WINS HIS FIRST CAROLINAS AMATEUR

/ written by MICHAEL DANN



> Carter Jenkins won his first Carolinas Am and his fourth CGA title at Kiawah Island July 14. Jenkins is shown with his father, Bobby, (center) his caddy for the event. Weather (top right) posed some challenges.

There are many ways to describe what happened at **this year's Carolinas Amateur**.

Carter Jenkins of Raleigh won his fourth CGA title, his first "Carolinas Am." It rained. Jenkins bogeyed the last hole to make sure no one broke par for 72 holes at the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island. It rained cats and dogs.

It was the 99th Carolinas Amateur, an event with significant history and many, many good names on the trophy. It rained so hard that play was delayed about 99 times, or so it felt. (In actuality, it was only five times.)

It was Jenkins' 18th birthday — the same day that Jordan Spieth, only 19, won his first title on the PGA Tour.

"I didn't know Jordan had won the John Deere (Classic) until the next morning," Jenkins says. "I watched him on the range at Merion (U.S. Open) for about 30 minutes. He was working on his fade."

Jenkins is a rising freshman, set to go to

UNC-Greensboro in the fall. He'll study business administration. His dad, Bobby Jenkins, a law professor in Charlotte, was on the bag for him all four rounds. Jenkins' mom was in a gallery rowboat.

"Dad probably saved me two to three shots a round," Jenkins says, "by judging the wind and by keeping me calm."

The CGA used the same hole locations that the PGA of America used last year for the final round of the PGA Championship, a runaway win for Rory McIlroy.

"That was cool, really cool," Jenkins says. "I wondered on Saturday if the CGA was going to do that. I wanted to compare myself with what they did last year."

Miller Capps of Denver, N.C., finished second, one over par and one behind. Both Jenkins and Capps closed with one-under-par 71 cards — a good comparison with the professionals of a year ago.

The CGA was forced to use the late evening hours and odd starts just to finish Sunday afternoon, because of rain.

"We had probably seven inches during the championship. I don't remember how much we had for the practice rounds," notes Ocean Course head golf professional Stephen Youngner. "It has rained so much here that I can't keep track.

"As tough as the course is by itself and was during the championship with the weather and the delays, I was really impressed by Jenkins. He has a lot of composure and game."

Jenkins' other CGA titles are expectedly junior related. He won the 2012 N.C. Junior and Dogwood Junior crowns and the 2008 N.C. Boys 13 and Under title.

How is he handling the new fame that comes with winning the CGA's flagship event?

"I'm still the same kid," he says. "So I don't know how I am handling it.

"I am looking forward to school."

> **Michael Dann** is CGA's director of course rating and handicapping.



# 'Get 'em Moving'

## CAROLINAS CLUBS, COURSES URGE GOLFERS TO PICK UP THE PACE

/ written by BOB GILLESPIE / photography by DON MCKENZIE

David Lackey is that rarest of golf professionals: **He almost never has to be concerned with slow play.** It helps that the man who writes the checks is in his corner.

Frank Tourville, owner of Zeus Inc. and an avid golfer, bought his hometown club, Orangeburg (S.C.) Country Club, in 2009 when it was on the verge of bankruptcy. He hired architect Richard Mandell to upgrade the 1961 Ellis Maples design.

A one-time single-digit handicap now in his late 70s, Tourville regularly plays 18 holes in around three hours — using forward tees, occasionally skipping holes to bypass slower players, and, when he's in a particular rush, limiting his partners to two putts each per green.

Now the club has added two other reminders to members to pick up the pace, per the U.S. Golf Association's 2012 effort to curtail slow play: a pair of large pole clocks manufactured by Verdin Co., at the first and 10th tees.

"The investment in the clocks is just another tangible piece of the emphasis placed on pace of play here," says Lackey, OCC's director of golf. "It is a major point of emphasis.

The staff spends a lot of time on the course monitoring and working with pace of play ... play at your own pace, but let faster groups play through, always."

### USGA Initiative

Across the Carolinas, clubs and public/resort courses are embracing USGA's "While We're Young" initiative. It's a multi-faceted plan to reduce the length of a round of golf and stop the erosion of player numbers because of slow play.

"We've launched this initiative because poor pace of play is driving recreational golfers from the recreational game," USGA President Glen Nager said prior to this year's U.S. Open. Nager pinpointed four problem areas: golf course design, course setup, player management, and player behavior.

Solutions are as diverse (and as creative) as each club. From technology to course changes to people skills, clubs across the Carolinas say



> Here and Page 14: Hole No. 10 at Orangeburg Country Club in South Carolina boasts one of two large pole clocks the club has installed to help keep play moving.



they are committed to doing whatever it takes. At Hilton Head's Harbour Town Golf Links, Director of Sports Cary Corbitt has to deal with players often unfamiliar with the Sea Pines Resort course, its cart path-only restrictions and tight, demanding fairways. Harbour Town once used time-management principals to speed up play, but now has a more personal touch.

"Every Harbour Town tee time is required to have a forecaddie," Corbitt says. "We also offer the same on (the resort's) Ocean Course and Heron Point (by Pete Dye), and 10 to 15 percent opt for them.

"Part of their role is to keep play moving — and they're graded on that. (A forecaddie) is like an on-course concierge. He cleans balls, rakes bunkers, hunts for lost balls."

Wild Dunes at Isle of Palms, near Charleston, employs a combined GPS/digital clock in each cart to keep players alert.

"It not only shows yardage on each hole, but also keeps track if you're ahead of or behind pace," says Director of Golf Jeff Minton. "If you're ahead, it says 'ahead of pace' in green; if you fall behind, the numbers show up in red. People can see they're behind, which makes it easier when talking to them."

With the ability to track carts from the pro shop, the staff can locate slow groups and dispatch an assistant pro to gently urge them on. Prescribed pace is 4:15 for the Links course and 4:10 for the Harbor course.

"It's rare we get a five-hour round," Minton

says. "We can get more golfers out. They have a better time and are more likely to come back."

### Course Set-up is Key

At Charlotte's Golf Club at Ballantyne, past Director of Golf Woody Allen believes course setup is a key element in slow play.

"Many days, we rearrange a tee complex to make (the hole) shorter, easier," he says. "On busy days, we cut the pins in the easiest locations, closer to the center of the green."

Knowing golfers' egos, Allen occasionally moves the course's black (back) tee markers up to the whites, "so they can say they played the blacks," he says.

Ballantyne even went so far as to reconstruct three holes. Also to expedite rounds, Ballantyne has no beverage carts; food and drinks are available at the first and 10th holes.

"The biggest thing is beginners playing in outings," Allen says. "They just want to enjoy the morning, so we try to educate them that they don't have to hit every shot."

That's the philosophy at Pinehurst Country Club, where Todd Camplin, former head professional at No. 7, says some of the club's other layouts often "are too much course for most players." When players struggle, rangers and staff try to spot it early and, "if need be, we have them skip the 10th hole. If time allows, they can go back to No. 10 and not lose the hole — and we gain the space back," he says.

Jeff Dotson of the Country Club of North

Carolina also has a pair of long courses that can test players and slow play.

"We have six sets of tees, so guys can play forward without playing the 'ladies' tees," he says. "If they don't need three shots to reach the green (on par-4 holes), they play faster rounds, can be more competitive."

Actually, Dotson says, members aren't typically the issue. Guests are.

"We want them to have a good time, so if they want the back tees, OK," he says, "but as our members can tell them, the golf course is already long."

### Creative Solutions

At Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington, N.C., Director of Golf Joey Hines' pace experience is different. Though the club has a "Rolex imitation" clock on its putting green, "We don't do tee times," Hines says. Instead, he sends groups off as they arrive at the first tee, and they typically finish within four hours.

In 2007, Cape Fear removed men's and women's tee designations, encouraging players to move forward. The Donald Ross course layout, with greens and tees in close proximity, also allows Hines to be creative.

"For people who say it takes too long, we say: 'Why don't you decide how much time you've got? We've got a course that fits that,'" Hines says.

Because the sixth green is near the clubhouse, players can play a six-hole round; a three-hole practice course next to the driving range is another option. In fact, when it comes to slow play, Hines and Ted Brewer, head professional at Catawba Country Club in Newton, N.C., claim to have "the opposite problem."

"I've got guys who play too fast; they want to play in three hours and get held up by someone playing 3:30," Hines says.

Brewer has two members — former NASCAR drivers Ned (father) and Dale (son) Jarrett — who are accustomed to going fast, too.

"They don't like waiting," Brewer says. "(Dale's brother) Glen a lot of times calls in from out on the course and says, 'Get 'em moving.'"

The USGA, and Orangeburg's Tourville, are right there with 'em.

➤ **Bob Gillespie** is a S.C.-based freelance writer.



> Clockwise from top left: Madison and Garrett Clark; Brian and Rachel Walker; Evan and Ben Long; Billy and William Sturtevant; Sam and Symon Balbin; Xan and Fulton Smith; Parent-Child Championship victors Gary and Lauren Robinson (also pictured on Page 17); and Father-Son winners Paul and Phillip Simson.

# Sentimental Journey

## GENERATIONS COME TOGETHER FOR FATHER-SON, PARENT-CHILD EVENTS

/ written by **BETSEY MITCHELL** / photography by **DON MCKENZIE**

For 47 years, the **Carolinas Golf Association has mixed competition and nostalgia on the last Friday in July in what has turned into the largest annual event the CGA runs. In 1967, the Carolinas Golf Association introduced the Father-Son Championship.**

The format — modified alternate shot — is a significant part of the success of this event even while it tests the patience and nerves of every player.

Modified? Both members of a team hit from each tee. They select one drive. The other team member hits the next shot. They alternate hitting shots until the hole is completed.

Participants range in age from 80s to teens. Perhaps the son is a college hotshot and dad plays only a couple of times a year. Or maybe dad is a retired golf junkie and son is the one with a busy career or is only 14 years old.

Regardless of the age mix, the task nearly 50 years ago was to find a format that was fun, fast, and fair. This one has worked well.

In 1998, the Parent-Child Championship was added. More than one father wanted to play with his daughter, and mom wanted to be part of this game, too. The parent-child follows the same modified format and is open to mother-son, mother-daughter, father-daughter, grand-mother, etc. — any combination that is not male-male, which is what the father-son is for.

Father-son can be a misnomer. Rules note that “entry is open to any team comprised of a father and son, stepfather and stepson, in-laws, or grandfather and grandson.” One member of the team has to be a member of a CGA club, so out-of-Carolina players are welcome.



From the beginning, this championship proved so popular that the field was allocated across multiple golf courses. This year, five Sandhills area clubs hosted 15 divisions, which included one for professional golfers who have an amateur partner. The Parent-Child adds three more divisions. Teams with similar handicaps are flighted together.

For all but two years, the father-son event has been conducted on multiple courses around the Pinehurst area. This year’s hosts were Legacy Golf Club, Pinewild Country Club

(Holly course), Longleaf Golf & Country Club, and the Country Club of Whispering Pines (Pines Course), which also hosted the parent-child event. The championship division site was Seven Lakes Country Club.

The overall father-son champion team for 2013 was Paul and Phillip Simson of Raleigh, N.C. This is their second team triumph and that puts the total CGA wins for Paul Simson at a remarkable 26 championships. The parent-child championship was a three-peat for the team of Gary and Lauren Robinson of Fayetteville, N.C.

The real story of the day, however, is more heartwarming than competitive. It is about family gatherings.

For many, the father-son reunion begins on Thursday night. The Pine Crest Inn in the Village of Pinehurst is a favorite gathering spot. The porch rockers are full of folks catching up on family news, sharing stories with other teams, and picking up where they left off last year. Nobody would be surprised to discover some wagering going on.

There are as many stories as there are teams. There is the anticipation and maybe just a little bit of terror in competing for the first time. There is the pressure of almost winning so many times, but just missing the mark. There is the comfort of having played the event so many times that neither player cares much about the score; they just know how blessed they are to share the golf for the day.

The official starters at each venue witness the look of pride in a father’s eyes as he sees his boy hit a beauty down the middle — even if that boy has had a growing bald spot for a while now.

The care and tenderness of a parent helping a little one gather herself for the first shot of the day can be so lovely. The poor dad feeling the pressure of doing his very best for his son might swing extra hard with disastrous results or might miss a three-foot putt. Then son says, “That’s OK, Dad, don’t worry about it. We’ll make it up on the next hole.”

Much is said about love of the game. On the last Friday in July, somewhere on a golf course in the Pinehurst area, it is just about love.

➤ Freelance writer **Betsey Mitchell** is based in Pinehurst, N.C.

## Making Memories

There are as many stories at the Father-Son and Parent-Child Championships as there are participants. Here are some that reflect the best of what happens every year. Mark your calendar for next year. It could be a family tradition to last a lifetime. —Betsey Mitchell



› **Jimmy Glenn, Charlotte, N.C. & Murray Glenn, Spartanburg, S.C.**

Murray was 9 when he played in his first CGA Father-Son Championship with his dad, Jimmy. Murray is now 44.

When asked about a memorable moment, Jimmy said, “We were playing at Pinewild on the

Magnolia course. Our tee shots were about equal, but I told Murray, ‘I’ll take this shot. I’m a little better at this one.’ I proceeded to knock it clear over the railroad tracks and out of bounds.”

As for their best finish, he said, “Ah, we’ve won our flight a couple times, but it’s really about the good times. Wouldn’t trade that for anything.”

Jimmy and Murray played at Legacy Golf Club this year and shot a respectable 77.



› **Sherry Marsh, St. James, N.C. & Wes Stanley, Greensboro, N.C.**

Sherry and her son, Wes, have played in the Parent-Child Championship for more than 10 years. In fact, Sherry loves this event enough to make the three-hour drive from Southport to the

Country Club of Whispering Pines.

Sherry happily confessed to being over 60 because now she qualifies for shorter tees. Sherry and Wes came in fourth in their flight and will be back next year.

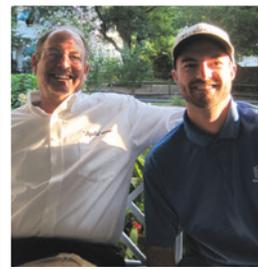


› **Bob Benson & Rob Benson, Mocksville, N.C.**

Bob Benson and his son, Robin, have paired for the father-son for 40-plus years. Bob had to sit out a few years, undergoing two heart surgeries and another for his lung. But that isn’t keeping a good man down.

“I’m 85 and coming alive,” he says.

He and Robin made it all the way around Legacy Golf Club. The quality of the day had nothing to do with the number of strokes.



› **John Welles, Charlotte, N.C. & Terry Welles, Raleigh, N.C.**

The Welles team was one of many pairs relaxing on the porch of the Pine Crest Inn in Pinehurst, N.C.

“I played the father-son with my dad back when I was a kid in New Jersey,” John says. “They

used to give the team a pin each year to indicate how many years the team had played. I always played because my dad asked me to, but I wasn’t really into it that much.

“After Dad passed away, I found that typical box of stuff all guys have in their dresser: cuff links, coins, and such. In this box were all the pins from our Father-Son competitions. That’s when I really got it.

“Now I get to play with my son. He was 12 or 13 our first year and now he’s 24. So special.”



› **The Isley Family**

This story begins many years ago with the original Father-Son Championship pair of Steve Sr. and Steve Jr. (in the photo below). Besides being the overall champions in 1985 and 1986, they also were the runner-up team in 1989.

Steve Jr. went on to become a PGA professional. He is currently head golf pro at the Oak Island Golf Club in Oak Island, N.C.

There’s another generation now — Steve Jr.’s son, Walker.



Steve Jr. and Walker competed in the Professional division of the 47th Carolinas Father-Son Championship at Legacy Golf Club, their third year to participate. The first year, Walker was just 8. This year, they came in low net.

“If I could figure out a way to play with both Dad and Walker, I would,” says Steve Jr. “Dad comes out to watch. He’d rather see Walker play.”

In fact, the whole family was there from tee to green for every hole.

# 2013 CGA Championship Schedule\*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
5th Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/3-4	Megan Moore/Eric Brady
CGA Island Four-Ball Getaway	Casa de Campo Resort	2/20-22	M. & P. Walker/ C. & J. Wilkins
19th Tar Heel Cup Match	CC of North Carolina (Cardinal)	3/11-12	Amateur Team
36th Carolinas Club Championship	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/8	The Club at 12 Oaks (Holly Springs, N.C.)
33rd Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Raleigh CC, Raleigh, N.C.	4/12-14	Scott Harvey
45th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	Dataw Island Club (Cotton Dyke), Dataw Island, S.C.	4/16-18	Michael Roland/Artis Pike
10th NC Women's Senior	Raintree CC (South), Charlotte, N.C.	4/23-24	Peg Brady
62nd Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/1-5	Paul Tucker/Brent Roof
8th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/4-5	Madison Moosa
28th NC Senior Amateur	Myers Park CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/14-16	Russ Perry
87th Women's Carolinas Amateur	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	5/21-23	Katie Rose Higgins
41st SC Amateur Match Play	Musgrove Mill GC, Clinton, S.C.	6/12-16	Adam Goins
53rd NC Amateur	Forsyth CC, Winston-Salem, N.C.	6/13-16	Steven Brame
46th NC Junior Boys	Prestonwood CC, Cary, N.C.	6/18-21	Austin Inman
17th NC Junior Girls	Bentwinds G&CC, Fuquay-Varina, N.C.	6/18-21	Lucia Polo
57th Carolinas Junior Girls Match Play	Wyboo GC, Manning, S.C.	6/25-27	Kelli Murphy
8th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Greensboro CC (Farm), Greensboro, N.C.	7/1	Jason Harris/McKenzie Barringer
7th Carolinas Girls 15 and Under	CC of Whispering Pines (West), Whispering Pines, N.C.	7/8-9	Grace Massengill
16th Carolinas Women's Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/9-11	Katie Rose Higgins
SC Junior Match Play (36th Boys, 13th Girls)	Lancaster GC, Lancaster, S.C.	7/9-12	Cayla Smith, Dwight Cauthen, Jr.
99th Carolinas Amateur	The Ocean Course, Kiawah Island, S.C.	7/11-14	Carter Jenkins
57th Carolinas-Virginias Women's Team Match	Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV	7/15-17	Carolinas Team
5th Carolinas Super Senior	Hilton Head National GC, Bluffton, S.C.	7/16-17	Artis Pike
9th Dogwood State Junior Championship (Boys, Girls)	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	7/16-18	Jennifer Chang, Jonathan Rector
17th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro Municipal GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/22-23	Akshay Bhatia
16th Carolinas Parent-Child	CC of Whispering Pines (East), Whispering Pines, N.C.	7/26	Gary & Lauren Robinson
47th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/26	Paul & Phillip Simson
12th Mid-Atlantic Challenge Junior Girls Team	CC of NC (Cardinal), Pinehurst, N.C.	7/27-28	Virginia-Maryland
47th Twin States Junior Girls	Mimosa Hills G&CC, Morganton, N.C.	7/30-31	Gina Kim
64th Carolinas Junior (Boys)	High Point CC (Willow Creek), High Point, N.C.	7/30-8/1	Doc Redman
4th NC Amateur Match Play	Carolina CC, Raleigh, N.C.	7/31-8/4	Carter Jenkins
36th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	MacGregor Downs CC, Cary, N.C.	8/13-14	Maureen Dunnagan & Kathryn Miranda
13th NC Senior Four-Ball	Bermuda Run CC, Bermuda Run, N.C.	8/13-15	Paul Simson & Don Detweiler
31st Carolinas-Virginias Junior Matches (Boys)	Boonsboro CC, Lynchburg, Va.	8/17-18	Carolinas Team
8th Carolinas Mixed Team	Myrtlewood GC (PineHills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	8/31-9/1	
20th NC Mid-Amateur	Porters Neck CC, Wilmington, N.C.	9/6-8	
52nd Carolinas Senior Amateur	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	9/10-12	
6th NC Super Senior	Carolina Trace (Lake), Sanford, N.C.	9/24-25	
15th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur	Columbia CC, Columbia, S.C.	10/1-2	
19th NC Four-Ball	River Run CC, Davidson, N.C.	10/4-6	
68th Captain's Putter Matches (Carolinas-Virginias)	Grandfather G&CC, Linville, N.C.	10/11-12	
2nd Carolinas Super Senior Four-Ball	Greensboro CC (Irving Park), Greensboro, N.C.	10/15-16	
3rd Carolinas Net Amateur	Pinehurst Resort & CC (No. 5), Pinehurst, N.C.	11/23-24	
17th Carolinas Interclub Championship Match	Mid Pines Inn & GC, Southern Pines, N.C.	11/23-24	

\* Updates on 2013 CGA qualifying sites, schedules for CGA one-day and senior four-ball events, and more are on [carolinascga.org](http://carolinascga.org)



# The Mystery of Blowing Rock

DEBATE CONTINUES TO SWIRL OVER WHO DESIGNED N.C. COURSE

/ written by BILL HENSLEY

In the scenic North Carolina mountains, **there are two intriguing, unsolved mysteries that create lengthy — but futile — debates:** the cause of the eerie lights on Brown Mountain, and who designed the Blowing Rock Country Club golf course.

For years, the question of the Blowing Rock course architect has been a cause of much discussion and research — all to no avail. Was it Seth Raynor or Donald Ross? Or neither?

The club lost all of its records and documentation in a 1974 fire that destroyed the clubhouse and files. Since then, amateur historians have had a field day.

A nine-hole layout known as Green Park-Norwood, the course was built in 1915. Another nine holes were added in 1922. Some even say, and it is possible, that Raynor designed the first nine and Ross the second.

Circumstantial evidence points to Ross, the famed Scotsman, as the designer. In the 1920s, he spent much time in the mountains designing the nine-hole Mayview course in Blowing

Rock, which never opened; the nearby Linville Golf Course; and four projects in Asheville, including Biltmore Forest. In a book listing the courses he designed, *Golf Has Never Failed Me*, Ross included Blowing Rock, where he redesigned nine holes and added nine in 1922.

By the same token, some golf history books credit Raynor, a renowned architect from the Northeast, with the Green Park-Norwood course in North Carolina. Raynor's trademark was a "redan" on each of his courses, which is described as a "formidable fortress" marked by a severe green. Purists say the second hole at Blowing Rock, a par 3, is a perfect example.

Noted golf writer/historian Brad Klein is adamant when he says, "Raynor did not do Blowing Rock." According to Klein, a definitive

list of courses designed by Raynor is in a book titled *The Evangelist Of Golf*. Blowing Rock is not among them.

Since the book was written, however, the author — George Bahto — has come up with new evidence, including a 1923 article from a Statesville, N.C., newspaper, which said, "based on his work in Blowing Rock, Raynor should be considered to design the new course in Statesville."

The late Anna Lineberger of Belmont, who first came to Blowing Rock in 1922, recalled several years before her death that nine holes were added that year. She recounted meeting Ross that year when he visited her home. She also remembered that longtime member and one of the club's founders, David Craig, entertained Ross in the 1920s when he was working

Photography courtesy of the club

on the Linville course — an indication that a friendship existed.

Course designer Kris Spence of Greensboro has stated in compiling a history of the course that Raynor was the architect. Spence cited the fine work Raynor did on the historic golf course.

Blowing Rock Golf Director Wayne Smith, a 30-year veteran at the club, has studied and researched the question throughout his tenure and proposes another theory: Maybe a third architect was involved.

Smith says significant course changes were made between 1927 and 1933. This was after Raynor's death in 1926. Evidence indicates that the work was done by Charles Banks, a Raynor protégé. Because of his extensive use of heavy equipment, he was known in the industry as

**Regardless of who designed it, the most-talked-about hole on the course is the par-4 17th, which measures only 311 yards.**

"Steam Shovel Banks." His work is evident on several holes, particularly the original third and 16th greens.

"It appears that Banks was continuing Raynor's work," Smith says. "It is possible that three of America's great architects were involved." So the question remains: Raynor? Ross? Banks?

Meanwhile, members and guests are enjoying the 98th year of the course's colorful existence. The classic mountain layout plays to par 72 over its 6,162 hilly yards. The course's ratings are 69.4/126.

Regardless of who designed it, the most-talked-about hole on the course is the par-4 17th, which measures only 311 yards. Two holes-in-one have been recorded there, but no one in either group actually saw the balls disappear into the cup because the green sits on the other side of a hill and isn't visible from the tee.

And the guessing game continues ...

► **Bill Hensley** is a Charlotte-based golf writer and Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame member.



► Opposite page: Blowing Rock Country Club, Hole No. 9. This page: The Blowing Rock clubhouse (inset), and Hole No. 13.

# Going for the Green

## EXPANDED PARTICIPATION, SILENT AUCTION FOR 'THE REUNION' 2013

/ written by KATHY GIBBONS



As the Carolinas Golf Association turns resources to its “Setting the Course” capital campaign to build Carolinas Golf House, the CGA’s annual fundraiser, The Reunion, aims to shore up support for Carolinas Golf Foundation initiatives.

“For years, we earmarked a certain amount of money from CGA investments to go toward the Foundation,” says Jack Nance, CGA executive director. “Now, because we’re putting money toward our golf house, we need a source to replace it.”

The CGA is looking to its second annual Reunion fundraiser coming up Oct. 13 and 14 at Pine Needles Resort in Southern Pines, N.C., to be even more successful than 2012’s inaugural event. Eventually, organizers hope to generate enough to replace the CGA’s previous contributions to the foundation.

“We had 13 teams last year, and we hope to have a full complement of 18 or maybe even 20 teams this year,” says Reunion Committee Chair Mike Smith of Greenville, S.C. “In our first year, we raised \$10,000 for the foundation. Our goal is \$50,000 this year.”

Sunday features optional golf with an evening social. Monday’s golf event has a pro or celebrity playing with four amateur golfers per team who can sign up individually or in groups.

“We try to get a good mix of golf professionals who have come through CGA’s program or who have a Carolinas connection,” Smith says.

### Coming Attractions

Confirmed so far are Champions Tour player David Eger; amateur Paul Simson with 26 CGA titles; and Walter Hall, a former CGA champion who played professionally on the Asian Tour, NGA Hooters Tour, Champions Tour, and European Seniors Tour. Other invitees include Marcy Newton Hart and Laura Diaz of the LPGA Tour; newly turned pros Harold Varner III and Jack Fields; Champions Tour qualifier and Pine Needles Resort Director of Instruction Pat McGowan; and former PGA Tour player John Maginnes.

New this year is a silent auction opening several days before the Reunion that Nance said offers some exciting prizes. The CGA has assembled a travel-golf package with the three courses



hosting USGA championships this year: Wade Hampton Golf Club, the Country Club of Charleston, and Biltmore Forest Country Club. The CGA also expects to line up additional entertainment, and camaraderie is always a big attraction.

“The whole point of getting together is to raise money for our foundation and to have fun while we do it,” Nance says. “It’s basically a celebration of golf in the Carolinas.”

For complete details and to register for “The Reunion — A Carolinas Golf Foundation Event,” visit [www.reuniongolftournament.org](http://www.reuniongolftournament.org), email [contactreunion@carolinasgolf.org](mailto:contactreunion@carolinasgolf.org), or call 910-673-1000.

➤ **Kathy Gibbons** is managing editor of *Carolinas Golf* magazine.

# Fixing the Dreaded Heel Shank



## EXPLORING THE CAUSES

/ written by DOUG ALEXANDER / illustration by KEVIN FALES

One of the most dreaded words in golf is “**shank**.” A shank is essentially a club face miss, resulting in the ball spraying right or left of the target.



In our junior golf academy, we teach full-time students (grades 5-12) to address and fix issues immediately. Our goal is to have them correct problems on their own, drawing from a variety of solutions that we teach them.

The most common miss is the heel shank. It occurs when one hits the ball off the hosel, where the shaft inserts into the club head. Another term for this horrendous shot is a “hosel rocket.” Depending on club selection and how much you hit it on the hosel, the ball can go directly right for right-handed players. Check the club face and see where the white marks are on the club.

What causes the heel shank? One mistake can be standing too close to the ball at address. Move back an inch or so to create enough room to swing your arms down to hit the ball.

Another factor can be loss of posture in the back swing. In this setting, your body can get closer to the ball during the swing. For instance, you could be starting the back swing and moving away from the ball, then compensating on the down swing to cause the shank.

If the lower body is not still, your legs could be causing this problem as well.

A third reason can be the takeaway. If you are too flat or take the club back inside, your arms will swing in or get behind during the back swing. That causes the arms to swing too much in front and down through impact. The back swing becomes too flat and the down swing is over the top. As a result, the club gets closer to the ball and causes it to strike the hosel.

To fix the takeaway, place a golf bag behind you and a bit inside the target line, but far enough away to swing a wedge back and through. Feel the club go up and down during the takeaway with wrists hinging in this motion. Adding the golf bag does not allow you to take the club inside and decreases the chances of a shank.

Next, place a plastic range ball basket or a head cover an inch behind the golf ball. The goal is to swing down and hit the ball without striking the basket or cover. Start with small repetitions and work your way up to full swings.

Finally, remove the basket and see if you can hit the ball in the middle of the club face.

› **Doug Alexander** is director of training at Hank Haney International Junior Golf Academy on Hilton Head Island, S.C. He is a Level IV Hank Haney-certified master instructor and former senior golf instructor for Hank Haney Golf in Dallas, Texas. He can be reached at (888) 936-5327.

# Pace of Play

## IT'S TIME TO THINK OUTSIDE THE TEE BOX

/ written by JACK NANCE / illustration by KEVIN FALES

How would you feel if you attended a college basketball game, and the 45-second shot clock was not visible? And what if **the shot clock was kept by only one referee, who determined when it started and when it expired** and then informed the players as to their timing?

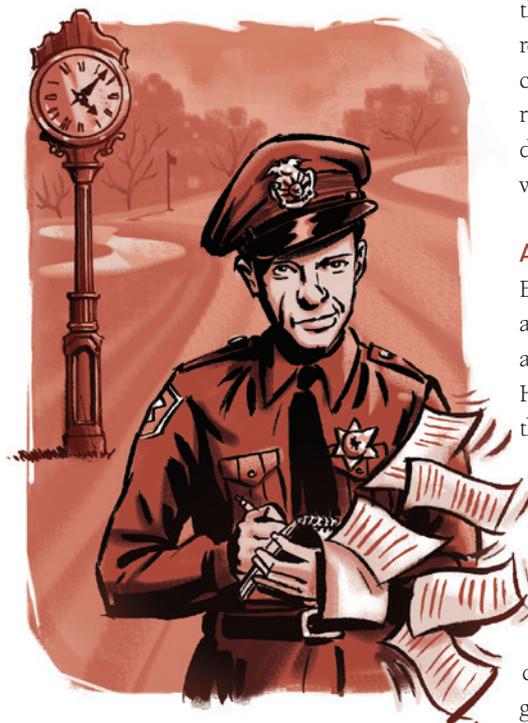
That's pretty much the scenario when a rules official works pace of play at a tournament. The official is typically the only one keeping time and deciding if a penalty is warranted. This lack of public display with timing might well be the crux of the slow play issue.

What if that changed? What if the pace of play onus was taken off the rules official and timing was made public? Many traditionalists (and I am one) may squirm, but the fruit may be ripe to deal with pace of play as many other sports have. Public timing models have worked well in so many others. Why not golf?

According to published reports, the basketball shot clock was created in 1954 in Syracuse, N.Y. While normally associated with basketball, the shot clock is also used in snooker, pro lacrosse, water polo, korfbal, and ten-pin bowling. Football has its play clock.

Is golf next? Unless you live in a hole made by a burrowing animal, you know about the USGA's attack on slow golf. I applaud that. For the most part, there are two factions with whom we are concerned — the casual golfer and tournament golfer. Many of my thoughts relate more to the tournament golfer who might tend to "freeze" in a tournament atmosphere.

In assessing what makes the shot clock work, there seem to be four key ingredients: consistency, impartiality, objectivity, and accountability. These objectives are easily accomplished in basketball, since everyone — players, coaches, and spectators — is under the same roof. Taking this idea to the golf course would be more difficult — but perhaps, doable.



### Consistency

Timing should be monitored consistently for all players. Maybe a clock is not required on every shot, but staggered timings would be a great start. Golf rules officials cannot be everywhere at all times, so a consistent intermittent measure of all shots on some holes (i.e., every third hole) will afford the inspection of all golfers when they pass.

### Impartiality

Enter 14-year-old Tianlang Guan, who was penalized at The Masters this year for slow play. This was reportedly the first slow-play penalty on the PGA Tour since 1995. If that's true, it's

Join the USGA's "While We're Young" movement to improve pace of play. View videos featuring Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods, Annika Sorenstam, and other golf greats, and sign the pledge at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

been almost 20 years. Yet on any PGA Tour event in any given week, a true pace-of-play Barney Fife could be writing violations until his arm fell off. Don't take my word, try it yourself while watching a Tour event on TV. Time a player and see what you get in 45 seconds.

### Objectivity

This is where the clock really helps. Whether the golfer is a veteran leading a major or a rookie struggling to cash a check, let's use the clock to decide players' times. This would take rules officials out of the equation and let them do what they do best — administer the rules. It would be truly objective.

### Accountability

Each person — not the group — must be accountable. Some committees have introduced a check-point system. That's a wonderful start. However, the system falls short of dealing with the actual problem — the individual golfer.

The check-point system places people at various holes on the course (i.e., 4, 9, 13, and 18). If a group is behind, the "timer" takes action and warns/penalizes the group. Then an individual who feels he did nothing wrong has his day in a post-round court of sorts to appeal. The average-paced golfer has enough to worry about without the stress of playing faster to make up for slower fellow competitor(s).

I realize the shot clock concept has some challenges — costs and logistics among them. But let's think outside the tee box. Most of us in golf know we can do better in monitoring pace, but we need help. The current model is too subjective — and secretive.

Until we go public with the timing issue and make everyone accountable, we will be slow playing the slow-play issue for years to come. It just boils down to how nontraditional we are willing to become in a very traditional world.

➤ **Jack Nance** is executive director, Carolinas Golf Association.