

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Winter 2011/2012

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PREPPING FOR THE PGA

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KIAWAH ISLAND'S OCEAN COURSE
FOR ITS 'MAJOR' DEBUT

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MAKING A CASE FOR
BERMUDAGRASS GREENS

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

A Great Year for Amateur Golf

/ by WALTER TODD, President, Carolinas Golf Association

➤ **This has been a great year for amateur golf. Amateurs won two events on the Nationwide Tour and performed very well in PGA Tour events, as well as the U.S. Open. I enjoy seeing this and will admit to pulling harder for the non-professionals. The CGA is, after all, an association dedicated to amateur golf.**

It is exciting to see the amateur player compete successfully against the world's best professionals. However, in most cases for the top players, the amateur game has become just another step in their journey to professional golf.

I understand that, and I would never want to discourage a capable player of following his or her dream to make the PGA Tour or to play on the LPGA Tour. I am also aware of the financial benefits and other perks that are realized when someone achieves success on these tours. Plus, it is of great interest to me to see the many Carolinians who are doing so well on these various tours.

There are many of today's talented young players whom I would advise to try the professional route. However, I believe it is not always in the best interest of some of these players to turn professional, and I believe there is a place in the game for the career amateur.

I realize that with the number of professional tours and the media's interest in the professional game, there is sometimes less attentiveness to the amateur game and its top tournaments than there has been in past years. With that being said, I still believe the amateur player is the heart and lifeblood of the game.

I look forward to some of today's top players remaining amateur and making it their goal to compete in their state amateur and the Carolinas Amateur, as well as other top state, regional, and national events. I also trust that these players will make it a priority to represent their states in the Tarheel Cup, Palmetto Cup, and the Captain's Putter Matches — or set their goals even higher, on the Walker Cup. I hope today's more flexible work schedules will make this possible, and I wish them well.

The relationships and the experiences forged through both the amateur and the professional game will last a lifetime and enrich the journey.

I am going to leave you with a quote that is dear to my heart. It's from a poem called "The South Country" by Hilaire Belloc, and was used by the writer O.B. Keeler when speaking about the greatest amateur of all time, Bobby Jones, and his thoughts on retirement:

"If ever I become a rich man, or if ever I grow to be old, I will build a house with a deep thatch to shelter me from the cold, I will hold my house in the high woods within a walk of the sea, and the men that were boys when I was a boy shall sit and drink with me."

This is my last column as president, and I have been genuinely humbled and honored to have served.

Thank you and enjoy your game!



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NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

► **Bob Seligman**, a career journalist and frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*, died in September of a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was 61. Seligman was a sportswriter for *The Journal News* in New York during the 1970s and 1980s, and was the former editor of *Golf Product News*.

► **Neal Irwin Baker** of Charleston, S.C., died in August at age 61. He attended Georgia State University and was a member of Temple Beth Elohim Reformed Congregation. The real estate developer and owner of Neal Baker Inc. had a passion for golf and contributed to the South Carolina Junior Golf Foundation, as well as to The College of Charleston golf team.

► The father-and-son duo of **Mike Adams** and **Bob Adams** both competed in the 50th Carolinas Senior Amateur Championship at Columbia CC in Columbia, S.C., in September. While the Carolinas Golf Association doesn't keep records of such rare occurrences, it is safe to assume that few fathers and sons have competed against each other in a championship created for golfers aged 55 and older. But that's what happened when the 55-year-old Mike tried to match strokes with his 80-year-old father. Both of the Adams earned their way into this 54-hole championship at an 18-hole sectional qualifier by posting 7-over-par 78s to finish in a nine-way tie for the final qualifying spots.

► **Sarah Hirshland** was named the USGA's new senior managing director of Business Affairs. She was a senior vice president in charge of strategic business development at the Wasserman Media Group in Los Angeles, Calif. Prior to that, she worked for OnSport, a Raleigh, N.C.-based sports and entertainment consulting firm. A graduate of Duke University, Sarah was one of the founding employees of Total Sports in Raleigh, N.C., an online sports news and technology company.

► Pinehurst CC member **Ken Eichele** was featured on The Golf Channel's special *Golf in America* on Sept. 11. Eichele, the former battalion chief for the Upper East Side Fire Department of New York City, was previously featured on The Golf Channel when it highlighted how golf saved his life on 9/11 in 2001. That day, he was qualifying for the Mid-Amateur in Westchester, and left immediately after being called about the tragic events happening in the city. The Golf Channel special returned to check in on Ken and wife June for the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

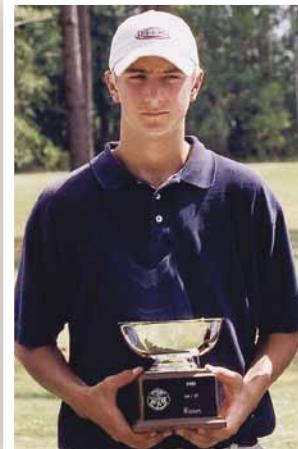
It was a big PGA Tour season finish for three past Carolinas Players of the Year. **Bill Haas**, **Webb Simpson**, and **Dustin Johnson** finished 1st, 2nd and 4th respectively in the final FedExCup standings. Haas — who is from Charlotte, N.C., attended Wake Forest University, and was the CGA's Player of the Year in 2003 — didn't prevail in the first two playoffs he participated in during the 2011 season. But he won his third, and most lucrative, attempt. He beat Hunter Mahan with a par on the third extra hole to claim both the FedExCup and the Tour Championship by Coca-Cola. With the \$10 million FedExCup bonus, the win was worth \$11.44 million. Haas came into the FedExCup ranked 25th in points — a long shot to win. Simpson — a Raleigh, N.C., native, Wake Forest grad, and 2006 CGA Player of the Year — was the FedExCup points leader before the event, but finished in 22nd place. Johnson — who grew up in Columbia, S.C., and attended Coastal Carolina University — took the CGA's Player of the Year honor in 2007.



▶ Bill Haas (above, 1999)



▶ Webb Simpson (above, 2001)



▶ Dustin Johnson (above, 1998)



The Carolinas Golf Association named **Doug Hardisty** of Pinehurst, N.C., as its director of Media and Marketing. The 57-year-old Connecticut native will coordinate and oversee the CGA's website and the implementation of new technology to support CGA activities. In addition, he will be responsible for interaction with media outlets and for developing new marketing initiatives to help grow the association's club and member rosters. Hardisty spent 22 years in the printing and graphics arts industry, and in 2000 he formed his own company, US Digital Solutions LLC, which specialized in new technologies for small business. He is a member of Pinehurst CC and the Pinewild CC of Pinehurst.

Charles M. "Chuck" Borman received the Distinguished Service Award from the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association during its annual conference and trade show in November. Borman was the association's executive director for two stints beginning in the late 1990s. Under his leadership the association experienced significant growth in membership, services, and revenue. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the 1,800-member association bestows.

Cody Proveaux of Leesville, S.C., was named Rolex Junior Player of the Year on the strength of wins at the Polo Golf Junior Classic and the Junior PGA Championship, and four additional runner-up showings. In 2010, Proveaux won the CGA SC Junior. The Rolex Junior Player of the Year award recognizes one boy and one girl who had the most outstanding year in junior golf events at the national level. Past recipients have gone on to the



▶ Cody Proveaux

PGA and LPGA Tours, including Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Charles Howell III, Hunter Mahan, Scott Verplank, Cristie Kerr, Paula Creamer, and Morgan Pressel. A senior at Pelion High School, Proveaux is a two-time Rolex Junior All-American and has given a verbal commitment to continue his golf career with the Clemson Tigers.



Home of American Golf

► McConnell Golf Adds TPC Wakefield to its Stable

McConnell Golf LLC has purchased its eighth Carolinas golf club — TPC Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh, N.C., host of the Nationwide Tour event, The Rex Hospital Open. The highly ranked private course adds to McConnell's stable of offerings and also adds another course architect to the fold. Former U.S. Open champion and PGA Tour player Hale Irwin designed the 217-acre course. Other McConnell Golf courses were designed by the likes of Donald Ross, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Arnold Palmer, and Greg Norman.

"TPC Wakefield gives us a Nationwide Tour presence, along with a PGA Tour presence with the Wyndham Championship at Sedgefield," said John McConnell, CEO and president of McConnell Golf.

McConnell Golf has 3,000-plus members. Initiation at one club gives members access to eight properties. TPC Wakefield — which opened in 2000 — is a par-71, 7,257-yard championship course. In addition, TPC Wakefield has a 2,700-yard, walking-only nine-hole layout.

For more information, visit mcconnellgolf.com.



► TPC Wakefield Plantation No. 18

► Carolinas PGA Returning Home to Greensboro

The Carolinas Section of the PGA announced it will lease property and relocate to Bryan Park Golf & Conference Center in Greensboro, N.C. The organization currently is located in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Plans are to build a new office building on land that will be leased for 40 years, with an automatic renewal for the next 40 years at a cost of \$1 per year.

The CPGA holds an annual merchandise show as one of its major events. The show is scheduled for 2012 and 2013 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, and is held in conjunction with the CPGA's annual meeting and awards dinner.

Bryan Park has hosted the 2001 Carolinas Women's Senior, the 2002 North Carolina Mid-Am, and the 2002 Carolinas Parent-Child championships, as well as significant events on the amateur and collegiate levels. Last summer, it was the site of the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship.

For more information, visit carolinaspga.com.



► Forest Creek South, No. 18 (as seen from No. 9 green)

► Forest Creek GC to Host 2013 U.S. Mid-Amateur

Forest Creek Golf Club near the Village of Pinehurst has been selected by the USGA to host the 2013 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, Oct. 5-10, 2013. The championship will be played on the North and South courses, both of which were designed by Tom Fazio.

"We are honored and grateful that the USGA has entrusted our golf club with the distinct honor of hosting one of its prestigious national championships," said Forest Creek Golf Club President Terry Brown. This will mark the first USGA championship for Forest Creek, although the club has previously hosted sectional qualifying for the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Girls' Junior championships.

The U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship is open to amateur golfers at least 25 years of age who hold a USGA Handicap Index no higher than 3.4. For more information, visit usga.org or ForestCreekGolfClub.com.

NEW CGA MEMBER CLUBS

Hilton Head National Golf Club,
Bluffton, S.C. (associate)

Lowcountry Women's Golf Association,
Hilton Head, S.C. (affiliate)

Greensboro National Golf Club,
Summerfield, N.C.



➤ Harbour Town Golf Links No. 18

➤ Pete Dye Completes Harbour Town Tweaking

Pete Dye has completed enhancements to Harbour Town Golf Links — the architect's iconic masterpiece at The Sea Pines Resort.

Forty years ago, the home of the PGA Tour's RBC Heritage opened to much fanfare. With Dye's renovations, the layout has been lengthened by 150 yards, a handful of trees were removed to improve sightlines, and a select number of bunkers were reshaped or extended to bring hazards back into play.

Sea Pines also tapped Dye to create Heron Point on the site once occupied by the Sea Marsh course. Dye fashioned an entirely new layout using the existing routing. Golfers face a sequence of risk-reward shots, fairways that slope toward hazards, and Dye's signature mounding and swales framing target areas.

Sea Pines also boasts the Ocean Course — the island's George Cobb/Mark McCumber design with an emphasis on the traditional principles of course architecture.

The resort's award-winning Inn at Harbour Town has also been completely revitalized and refreshed. For more information about the resort and golf packages, visit seapines.com or call (866) 561-8802.

➤ Dormie Cup Fundraiser Picks Up Steam

The 2nd annual "Dormie Cup" at the renowned Dormie Club in West End, N.C., featured a "War Between the States" — and raised more than \$25,000 to benefit Wounded Warriors and other charities.

The team of Philip Kelley and Benji Schlottman of Advance, N.C., fired rounds of 65-76—141 to edge the Leesville, S.C., team of brothers Caleb and Cody Proveaux by one stroke. The one round of better ball format and a second alternate shot round took place on the par-71 design by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore, which was recently named No. 3 in the U.S. in *Golfweek's* "Best New Courses."

The Dormie Cup was initiated by Patrick Cover (Huntersville) and Thomas Walsh (High Point) to give back to the community. In 2010, a dozen junior golfers divided into two teams for an event modeled after the Ryder Cup. They raised more than \$10,000, and the CGA's junior program received a \$7,200 donation.

This year, 24 nationally ranked junior golfers from North Carolina and South Carolina played a two-man team event. Each participant raised a minimum of \$1,000 — and gathered more than \$25,000. Some funds will go to the First Tee Program of the Sandhills; the majority will benefit the Wounded Warrior Program, which assists veterans who return from action with injuries. Participants also collected 351 new golf hats to send to troops overseas.

➤ The Dormie Cup was initiated by Thomas Walsh (left) and Patrick Cover.

Adding to the festivities, Dormie Cup participants surprised golf legend and local resident Peggy Kirk Bell, who turned 90 on Oct. 28, with a birthday card and a rendition of "Happy Birthday." In addition, two Wounded Warriors caddied during the tournament.

Tournament organizers also established a "Charles G. McCartney Award" that was presented to David Sargent of Cornelius, N.C., in recognition of his fund-raising efforts, sportsmanship, and how he represents the game of golf and the American spirit. The award is named for Thomas Walsh's great uncle, who received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

For more about the Wounded Warriors, visit woundedwarriorproject.org. For more information about Dormie Club, call (910) 947-3240 or visit DormieClub.com.



Photography courtesy of the Dormie Cup, photo of course
Harbor Town Golf Links courtesy of the course

► Prestonwood CC's Golf Learning Center

Caps Renovation Effort

In early July, Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C., debuted its Golf Learning Center. Led by Tom Ream, the center houses the latest state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

Prestonwood's Director of Golf Operations Larry Conner recalls a past discussion with club owners about the project. He had presented a printout of extensive interactive website instructions posted by Ream. After reviewing the information, the owners told Conner: "You hire Tom Ream, and we'll build you a golf learning center."

The 2,500-square-foot building includes indoor and outdoor bays and a 10,000-square-foot grass teaching area tee box. In addition, the center has a V1 swing analysis video system, indoor putting studio with the S.A.M. PuttLab putting analysis system, S.A.M. BalanceLab, KVest, and TrackMan launch monitor. "I'm like a kid at Christmas," said Ream. "Everything a golf instructor could want is right here."

The Golf Learning Center offers a multidisciplinary, personalized approach. Core instruction areas include the long game, short game, putting, golf fitness, and club fitting. The center has customized one-to four-day game improvement programs for individuals and groups, year-round clinics, and member-sponsored corporate programs.

Prestonwood also offers strength training and golf-specific exercise programs from a Titleist Performance Institute Certified Instructor.

Prestonwood CC, established in 1987, has 54 holes of golf. Three years ago, it contracted architect Rick Robbins to renovate its trio of 18-hole golf courses. The third and final piece of his handiwork was



► Prestonwood Country Club

Photography courtesy of the course

unveiled Labor Day weekend, when the freshly renovated Highlands Course reopened with rebuilt green complexes featuring A-1 bentgrass and select bunkers that were replaced by collection areas and grass hollows.

For more information, visit prestonwood.com.

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Prepping for the PGA

KIAWAH ISLAND'S OCEAN COURSE TO HOST SOUTH CAROLINA'S FIRST MAJOR

/ written by REID NELSON / photographs by MICHAEL CYRA

(Editor's Note: It takes significant preparation to **host a major golf championship like the 2012 PGA Championship**. As part of a series of stories leading up to the big event, *Carolinas Golf* talks with **Jeff Stone, superintendent at Kiawah Island's Ocean Course**, to find out what goes on behind the scenes to get a course ready to challenge the world's best golfers — and to handle the crowds that follow them.)

When the PGA of America announced it was moving the 1991 Ryder Cup Matches from PGA West to Kiawah Island — a strategy to put one of golf's most popular events three time zones farther east for prime-time viewing by millions of fans in most of Europe — the course that would host the "War by the Shore" was yet to be built. Naturally, it wasn't long before golf enthusiasts, media, and the players themselves were calling and even visiting the popular resort island south of Charleston to find out what was taking shape at the Ocean Course.

The CGA visited the praised layout just four years later, when Charleston veteran amateurs Bert Atkinson and Frank Ford III battled for the South Carolina Amateur Match Play title. Atkinson won, 6 and 5.

Fast forward 16 years, and Pete Dye's gem, stretched out like an emerald-green necklace amidst the sand dunes and sea oats along the Atlantic Ocean, is now etched into the mind's eye of golf fans around the world. Not only the closest Ryder Cup in history — which came down to the last putt of the last day's last match, Bernhard Langer's anguishing miss in his match against Hale Irwin — but two World Cups and a Senior PGA Championship have

left indelible images of the now-famed Ocean Course on golf's history book.

The Ocean Course stands poised to make history yet again by hosting the first "major" ever to be staged in South Carolina when the 2012 PGA Championship is played Aug. 9-12. And though the game itself has changed greatly since the course made its Ryder Cup debut, don't expect to see a "different" Ocean Course when the PGA comes to the Lowcountry.

Unlike most courses picked to host a major in the last 10 years or so, The Ocean Course has undergone no major face-lift, no dramatic lengthening, and no severe toughening-up in preparation for next year's PGA. Yes, there have been a few tweaks, but ones so subtle that most players and fans alike may not even notice them.

"Honestly, no. Thinking back to the '91 Ryder Cup, I don't think they are going to see a noticeable difference," says Jeff Stone, Ocean Course superintendent.

That's because of something best termed the "Brilliance of Pete Dye." When Dye was constructing The Ocean Course in 1990, the game was just on the cusp of a technological explosion unlike any since hickory and

gutta percha gave way to steel and balata. Dye anticipated the dawn of the power game and built his seaside test accordingly. Even at its unveiling, The Ocean Course had tees that stretched its total yardage to more than the 7,606 yards that will be shown on the official scorecard for the 2012 PGA.

Still, that hasn't kept Dye and the PGA of America from making a few minor adjustments. For example, a new tee at the par-3 14th will make the hole 238 yards for the PGA pros. When Eduardo Romero effectively lost the 2007 Senior PGA to Denis Watson, pulling his tee shot into a steep bunker face just left of the green on the way to a double bogey, the hole measured 194 on the card.

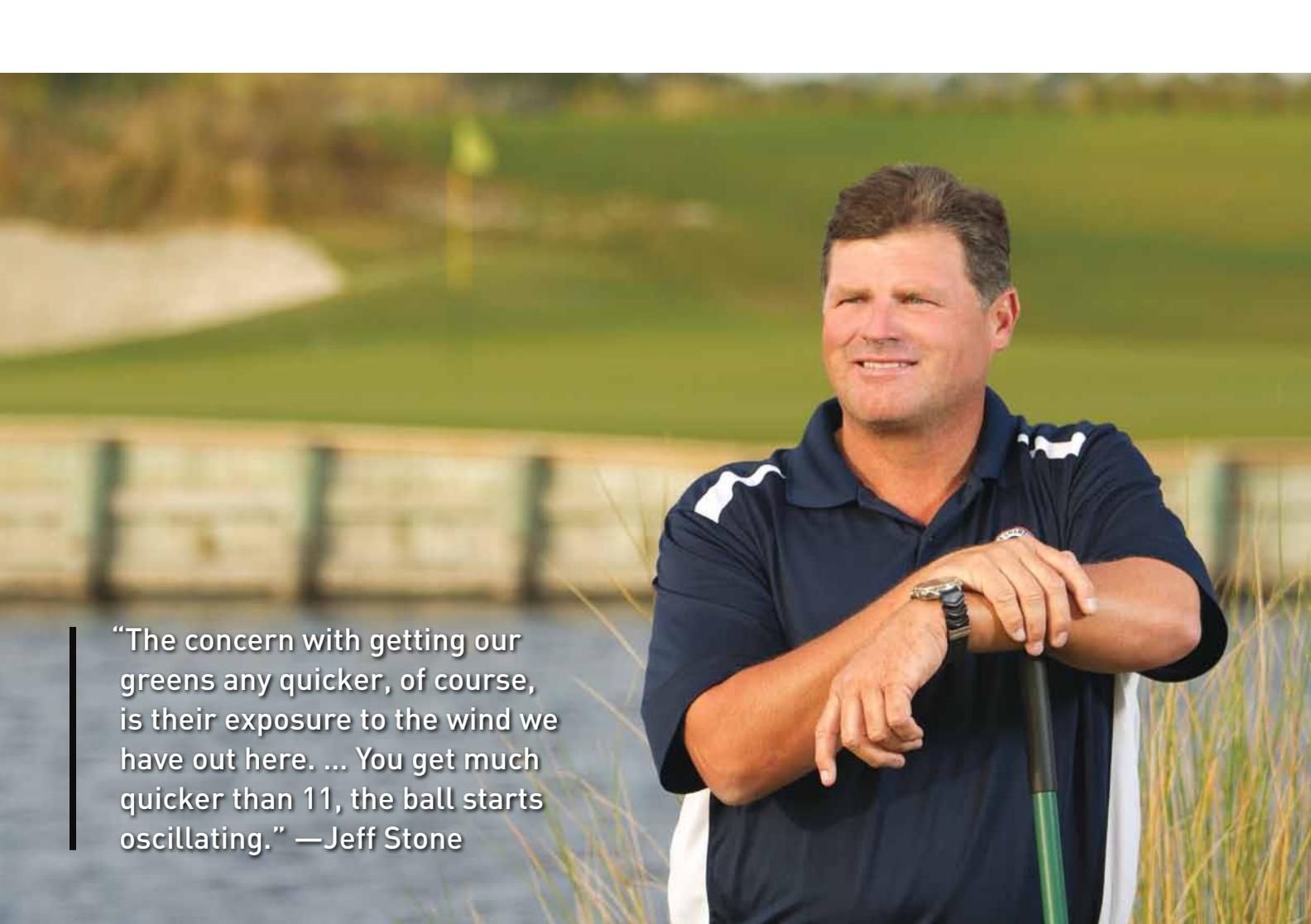
"And we built a new tee on 18 that adds about 35 to 40 yards to that hole, so it plays anywhere from 490 to 505 now," Stone says. "The PGA (of America) wants to keep drives on top of that ridge, instead of letting players hit it over the ridge and catching the downslope there."

Of course, the entire 18th hole is new. The hole where Irwin and Langer made history was abandoned to make room for a new clubhouse prior to the Senior PGA coming in 2007. The "new" 18th — very similar to the original hole — still rises and falls as it doglegs right, but now sits much closer to the ocean.

Including the 2005 National Professionals Championship, the PGA of America has played three premier events at The Ocean Course, and Managing Director of Championships Kerry Haigh has set up the course for each one. Thus, he is intimately familiar with the course and the challenge it can present, depending on the elements. He knows well that this is a course that needs little special preparation to get ready for the game's best players.

"The golf course is hard enough as it is," Stone says. "When Kerry came up, he said, 'Look, you don't really have to do very much to this golf course to toughen it up. It's already a pretty tough test of golf.' "

"It will be (my) fourth set-up, but every (tournament) brings unique challenges," Haigh says. "Those who have played the course know that it not only changes from day to day, but often during the day."



"The concern with getting our greens any quicker, of course, is their exposure to the wind we have out here. ... You get much quicker than 11, the ball starts oscillating." —Jeff Stone

The *Golf Digest* top 100 voting panel agrees, ranking The Ocean Course as the most difficult course in America in its latest poll.

Haigh plans to draw on his experience setting up The Ocean Course, but knows that ultimately, as with any seaside venue, how the course plays is in nature's hands. "The official yardage will probably be longer than we play it every day," he explains. "That will allow us to use the back tees whenever appropriate when the wind is helping on those holes. Then we won't hesitate to move forward on a hole or two, if weather conditions dictate we do so.

"During the Ryder Cup here, I was moving tee locations 15 minutes before the first group teed off due to the wind," he adds. "We can do that only so much with a stroke-play event. The morning is the only time that you can make that decision. If the winds switch, as they often do along the ocean, it becomes a challenge to select the fairest tees so that the holes play as they were meant to be played."

Some things are in Haigh and Stone's control, however. For example, Stone says

that he has been asked to have the paspalum greens at The Ocean Course rolling at 11 on the Stimpmeter for the championship. "The concern with getting our greens any quicker, of course, is their exposure to the wind we have out here. ... You get much quicker than 11, the ball starts oscillating," he says.

Also, Haigh has determined the fairway cuts that will be used for the PGA, and Stone already is maintaining the fairway and rough lines just as the pros will see them.

"Kerry came in in the spring of this year and we marked all of the fairway and rough lines then," Stone says. "So basically, what you find the golf course playing today, as far as fairway lines, that's what it's going to play."

Because The Ocean Course is part of the 90-hole Kiawah Resort offering, anyone wishing to test their skills against the same course that will challenge tour pros next August can do so — right up through July 2012. Stone says Kiawah plans to keep the course open for resort play until approximately 10 days before the PGA.

Until then, Stone and his crew will be busy

preparing areas for corporate hospitality pavilions, TV trucks, a large media complex, merchandise tents, bleachers, and the like. Water lines and electricity will have to be run to most every facility, and countless other infrastructure details must be attended. Construction of these various facilities will begin in May.

"The challenges at Kiawah will be the same challenges we face at any course," Haigh says. "You're building a small village for the seven days of the championship, and putting all that together is a challenge at every venue."

Haigh is right, of course. But if you talk to the players who are looking at competing for the Rodman Wanamaker Trophy, symbolic of a PGA champion, the only challenges they're concerned with involve sand, sea oats, and the ever-present wind that makes The Ocean Course one of the toughest tests in golf — one that has needed very little tweaking as it prepares to host its first major.

► **Reid Nelson** is a writer and public relations professional based in Charleston, S.C.



THE BIG SWITCH

BERMUDA GREENS ARE SIMPLE LOGIC

/ written by RICHARD MANDELL

"We are a bentgrass greens club," proclaimed one Carolinas green chairman I have been working with since 2004. I really don't know what that means or why anyone should care.

Is it because we all think that bent greens are the only answer, as in: "That's the way it has been done in the past?" If so, that is probably one reason the golf business is suffering today. Just because we have always done it is not a reason to stick with a failing element of one's business. Bentgrass putting surfaces in the South are a failing element.

Frankly, what the above club is today is a "bentgrass greens club" with dead greens — and contemplating the next move. For years now, this club has employed one of the most talented superintendents in the Carolinas. This poor guy has suffered through countless brutal summers trying to keep his bentgrass greens on life-support.

He really has no hope to pull it off suc-

cessfully, as do few others in his position across the Carolinas. All the talent in the world does not change the obvious: Growing cool-season grass in a warm-season climate is like fitting a 3-inch round peg into a square with 2.5-inch sides. We have been jamming that peg into the hole for too long now, and it just doesn't fit. You don't need to be an agronomist to understand that.

Even good intentions can provide bad results. Years ago, Southern clubs had bermudagrass greens. Many older courses even had sand greens. This particular course with dead greens originally had bermudagrass putting surfaces.

Extreme grain issues and slow speeds doomed the original "bermudas" in favor

of lower bentgrass with cutting heights that led to faster putting speeds. Over the years, newer, more improved bent cultivars burst on the scene like new car models. These had the ability to push the green-speed envelope, but with them came a whole bunch of maintenance regimens.

Like countless other places, the "dead greens" club took advantage of this new technology when bentgrass cultivars were developed to withstand temperatures far above what was acceptable for a cool-season climate, and in the early '90s it made the conversion to bentgrass.

Using bentgrass on putting surfaces requires lots of labor and effort to maintain the health of the turf. A variety of chemicals is needed, as well as a lot more water — just accepted parts of everyone's maintenance budgets. Additionally, the USGA's own green construction specification (a layering of materials intended to ensure even irrigation distribution on surfaces and consistent drainage below) has become



► Architect Richard Mandell recently renovated Orangeburg CC's golf course, successfully using a bermudagrass cultivar for the new greens.

more and more requisite to support the “bents” at a construction cost almost twice that of traditional push-up greens.

Despite their best efforts, each summer brings more and more challenges for the golf course superintendent to keep his or her putting surfaces alive, much less playable.

It seems like we didn’t have these problems a decade ago like we do now. Are the Carolina turf managers getting worse at their jobs?

Of course not. In fact, our golf course superintendents are more educated and knowledgeable than ever. So what is the problem?

Golfers keep raising the bar, pushing the envelope, demanding more and more speed.



Technology responds. Nature just cannot keep up, even with more and more “improved” cultivars. As water becomes a scarce commodity, it will only get more and more difficult to maintain bentgrass greens in the dead heat of the summer playing season — no matter how genetically engineered they are.

Recently, though, a silent savior has appeared in the distance and is gaining momentum. The exiled “bermudas” are returning, more advanced than ever before. They are more conducive to lower cutting height, have less grain than their predecessors, and maintain their green color longer.

But most importantly, these new Ultra Dwarf “bermudas” are simply warm-season grasses engineered for a warm-season climate. It doesn’t matter how much science is behind these grasses; they are the 3-inch circles made for the 3-inch holes. In other words, they are a perfect fit.

Two of my most recent projects (The Reserve at Pawleys Island and Orangeburg Country Club) built their greens with a bermudagrass cultivar, and the members couldn’t be more pleased. As are the superintendents.

So just think of the logic behind this conversion: A putting surface grass whose peak performance time also happens to be the busiest stretch of the golf season. On the other hand, you can consider the deposited bentgrasses, which suffer greatly in the summer. I prefer grasses which perform well in place of grasses that struggle at the most critical juncture of our golf season. These new bermudas can be had for less cost, less water, less chemicals, and less daily effort.

► **Richard Mandell** is a Pinehurst-based golf architect. This past summer, he celebrated his 21st year in the business.

Short Drives to Great Golf

TOP-NOTCH RESORTS ARE JUST OVER THE BORDER

Looking for a quick golf getaway outside of the Carolinas? Several top-notch resorts are just a short drive away. From oceanfront and lakeshore to mountain retreat, here are **three of the best resorts across the border.**

Oceanfront Gem: Sea Island, Georgia

/ by REID NELSON

Sea Island and The Cloister have been synonymous with elegance and luxury since automobile executive Howard Coffin purchased tiny Long Island on the south Georgia coast, renamed it Sea Island, and began developing amenities for the well-heeled in the 1920s. Over the eight decades that followed, Sea Island had few rivals when it came to ranking the top oceanfront resorts.

Some of the game's most acclaimed architects, including Walter Travis, Charles H. Alison and Harry S. Colt, Robert Trent Jones, Dick Wilson, and Joe Lee left their marks on the area. Interestingly enough, they designed nine-hole layouts — Plantation (1927), Seaside (1928), Retreat (1959), and Marshside (1959). Because Sea Island is so small, all 36 holes were built on neighboring St. Simons Island, where Lee added the St. Simons Island Club in 1975.

In recent years, the resort's entire golf complexion has undergone a dramatic face-lift. First, Rees Jones was hired to combine the former Plantation and Retreat nines into a completely new Plantation Course, with views of the Atlantic and St. Simons Sound. Next, Tom Fazio combined the Marshside nine with Colt and Alison's original Seaside nine into a revamped Seaside Course. The course, which

has hosted several USGA championships, annually hosts the McGladrey Classic, part of the PGA Tour's Fall Series.

Finally, Davis Love III completely renovated St. Simon's Island Club into what is now called the Retreat Course. Shorter than its 7,000-yard siblings, the 6,500-yard layout still boasts a course rating of 73.8 from the tips, less than a stroke shy of Plantation's rating.

With the golf course renovations complete, the Sea Island Co. turned its attention to accommodations and amenities. Gone is the historic, original Cloister. In its place is a grand and modern hotel with a still-inviting, although different, charm. The "new from the ground up" Cloister has received Forbes' (formerly Mobil) Five-Star award three years running and, just this year, *Travel + Leisure* magazine named it one of "America's 50 Best Hotels for Families."

Want to stay closer to the golf? Opt for The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club, an intimate Five-Star, Five-Diamond hotel ranked among the world's best by *Travel + Leisure*, the Zagat Survey, *Golf Digest*, and *USA Today*. The Lodge offers opulence at every turn, down to the marble baths and 24-hour butler service. And with Colt & Alison's Bar and The Oak Room restaurant right downstairs, you don't have to leave the building for food and drink equal to the finest any city has to offer.

For families looking to spread out, Sea Island offers The Cloister Ocean Villas, as well as some 200 private homes and condos available for vacationing guests. Fully furnished residences range from three to eight bedrooms, and many have a private pool. Guests enjoy membership at the Sea Island Club, with access to resort dining and amenities.

seaisland.com, (866) 879-6238.

Pride of Lake Oconee: Reynolds Plantation, Georgia

/ by REID NELSON

When Georgia Power created Lake Oconee in 1979, the waters that flooded forests and farmland also engulfed a little, rustic cabin that served as a getaway spot for the late Mercer Reynolds Sr. The Greene County native had parlayed his business success into ownership of some 7,000 acres along the Oconee River, and years ago he built a woodland chateau called "Linger Longer" to help sate his love for hunting and other outdoor sports.

When word came down that Georgia Power would be damming the river to create the lake, the Reynolds family decided to leave the quaint hunting lodge intact, minus its doors and windows, so that some of Oconee's fish population would have a place to reside.

If the Reynolds family patriarch could only see what has replaced his beloved Linger Longer cabin as the crown jewel at the resort community that bears his name, Reynolds Plantation.

Located smack in the middle of four of Georgia's most prominent cities — Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, and Macon — Reynolds Plantation is one of golf's premier resort and residential communities. With six golf courses and nearly 30 miles of shoreline along Georgia's second largest lake, Reynolds Plantation is the perfect getaway — and an easy 75-minute drive west of Augusta via I-20.

Once there, guests can indulge themselves in the AAA Five-Diamond luxury of the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, where 251 rooms and suites, as well as six golf cottages and the 5,400-square-foot Presidential House, await. The Lodge itself occupies 35 acres of Lake Oconee shoreline and boasts a casual elegance



► The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club — Sound Vantage Point



► Sea Island, Seaside No.13



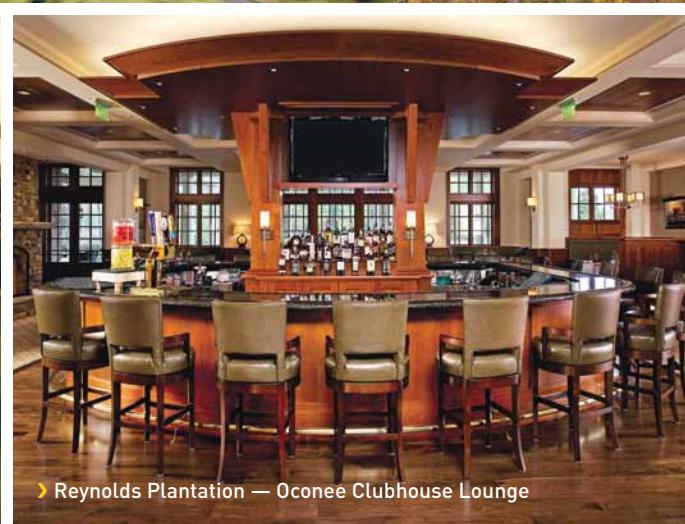
► Primland



► Primland



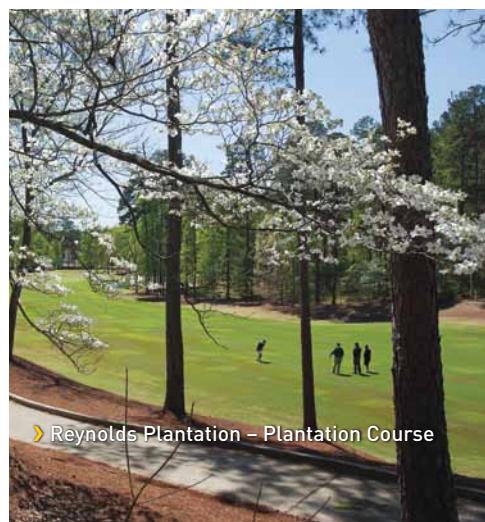
► Reynolds Plantation — Reynolds Landing No. 2-3-4



► Reynolds Plantation — Oconee Clubhouse Lounge



► Primland



► Reynolds Plantation – Plantation Course



► Sea Island

— far different from the urban polish you get at an “in-town” Ritz like the property in Atlanta’s upscale Buckhead neighborhood.

Much of the décor, including massive stone fireplaces, rich wood paneling, and heavy exposed beams, recalls the Lodge’s woodland setting. The award-winning spa, a 27,600-square-foot facility, has a treatment menu with a distinctly Southern flair and numerous water-inspired therapies.

Dining opportunities are varied — from the refined elegance of the Linger Longer Steakhouse or the relaxed atmosphere of Georgia’s Bistro to the ultra-casual cuisine served poolside at Gatsby’s by the Lake.

But the “real” reason to visit Reynolds Plantation is golf. Ninety-nine holes of it, to be exact. And that doesn’t include “The Kingdom,” TaylorMade’s state-of-the-art tech center where Tour players (and those of lesser abilities) can get a Tour-quality clubfitting experience. Once you are fitted, your clubs are custom built for you on-site, and you’re ready to hit the links.

The only question is which course to play. First, there’s the original Plantation Course. Designed by Bob Cupp, in collaboration with Fuzzy Zoeller and Hubert Green, the course put Reynolds Plantation on the golf map, and it’s still a favorite with residents and guests alike.

In 1992, Jack Nicklaus added the Great Waters course, which hosted the Anderson Consulting World Championship of Golf from 1995-97 — the tournament that evolved into the Accenture Match Play Championship. By the way, “Great Waters” is the English translation for the Creek word, Oconee.

Since then, architects Tom Fazio and Rees Jones have left their signature — Fazio authoring the 27-hole National course and Jones adding the Oconee, which in 2007 hosted the PGA Cup Matches, the club professionals’ equivalent to the Ryder Cup.

Across Highway 44, at Reynolds Landing, Cupp built what was originally opened as Port Armor. Now part of Reynolds Plantation’s golf offering, the Landing course has undergone extensive renovation, making it again one of the state’s top-ranked public-access courses.

The latest addition to the Reynolds lineup is the Creek Club, a Jim Engh layout reserved for member play only. But with 99 other holes

to play, you likely wouldn’t have time to try to talk your way onto the Creek Club course, anyway. And with the creations of architects like Nicklaus, Fazio, Jones, and Cupp awaiting you, who needs to?

reynoldsplantation.com, (888)298-3119.

Blue Ridge Beauty: Primland, near Meadows of Dan, Virginia

/ by BOB GILLESPIE

You’ve probably seen outlandish reproductions, usually on a clubhouse locker room wall, of Loyal H. Chapman’s “Dream” and “Infamous” series. The fantasy holes depict an impossible tee shot over, say, Niagara Falls or the Grand Canyon to a tiny green floating in a stream or carved into a cliff wall.

Standing on the elevated tee of the par-3 second hole at The Highland Course at Primland, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Meadows of Dan, Va., players can relive memories of those mind-bending figments of the artist’s imagination.

The left-to-right-canted green sits 195 yards away, hard against rocky outcroppings on the left while, to the right, a precipitous drop to a pine-clogged valley yaws menacingly. Even the best players swallow hard before hitting.

That feeling doesn’t end there. Scottish architect Donald Steel’s six-year-old, 7,053-yard design, with its large bentgrass greens, fescue rough, and huge elevation changes, requires sharp focus so as not to be distracted by the majestic views — as if the Highland Course, named one of America’s best new courses in 2007 by *Travel + Leisure Golf*, and *Golf Digest*’s best new public course (\$75 and over), wasn’t already enough of a challenge.

“There is a remoteness about Primland, a sense of escape, that is special,” says Steel, whose Carolinas work includes Cherokee Plantation in Yemassee, S.C., and a renovation of The Farm course at Greensboro Country Club. “Primland sits on top of the world, (with) views that stretch the vocabulary and a design that is very different.”

Different ... and difficult. “We adopted a policy of discouraging (high-handicappers) from playing it,” says Primland spokesman Sandy Gardiner. “(Those with handicaps of 18 or less are fine, but we made the decision to market to golfers at a decent level.”

The 12,000-acre resort just north of the Virginia-North Carolina line draws visitors from the Southeast, Washington, D.C., Ohio, New York, and even Europe. They come for crisp mountain air, jaw-dropping views, and the awesome isolation and quiet; for the elegantly appointed fairway cottages and the 72,000-square-foot Lodge at Primland, with 26 rooms and suites, and sumptuous dining at Elements and in the 19th Pub; and for the centerpiece Observatory, located atop the Lodge’s rooftop silo and boasting one of the lowest light-pollution counts in the U.S.

But mostly, they come for the golf.

It’s a year-round resort, with hunting and fishing from September to April, and The Spa at Primland, Gardiner says. “But golf is absolutely the biggest draw.” He laughs. “Of course, 75 percent of hunters are golfers, too.”

The Highland Course keeps them coming because Steel — whose resume includes membership in the Royal & Ancient, serving as president of the English Golf Union, authoring several books, plus designing 70 golf courses — didn’t settle for a merely excellent location. He demanded more.

“(Steel) was invited to come and look at the land and compete for a contract,” Gardiner says. “He looked at the property at the bottom of the mountain and said to an employee: ‘Is there anything you haven’t shown me?’ He found this finger of land at the top of the mountain, like a peninsula atop an island, and thought it would be ideal.”

Steel’s minimalist philosophy fit perfectly with the site; only two holes — the first, where the fairway route was dynamited through a rocky ridgeline, and the 17th, where some dirt was moved — required changes to topography. The results are rolling, climbing, and plummeting fairways and vistas that are, Gardiner says, “arresting.”

The view from the second shot atop a plateau at the par-4, 484-yard 18th has a vast green below, the Lodge perched on a ridge to the left, and mountain views to the right. It’s a fitting end to a round where the scores — but rarely the sights — might be forgotten.

“Golf courses have been built in every landscape imaginable,” Steel says, “but only rarely on mountain peaks.” Or, once upon a time, in an artist’s dreams.

primland.com, (866) 862-0476.



FROM VISION TO LANDMARK

THE FOUNDERS OF GRANDFATHER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB / written by LEE PACE

There was the crack golfer with the land and the vision.
There was the public relations wizard with his contacts and a camera.
And there was the oil man with deep pockets and a keen business sense.

Together, Aggie Morton Cocke Woodruff, Hugh Morton, and John Williams conceived, nurtured, and cultivated one of the foremost golf venues in the Carolinas — Grandfather Golf & Country Club.

The Linville, N.C., club celebrated the legacies of the Morton siblings and Williams in 2011 by creating the Founders Cup and holding an inaugural celebratory tournament last June. Sixty-eight two-man teams competed in four-ball match play, but one of the main highlights was an evening dinner program that included a short talk given by Williams, now 93 years old and a summer resident at Grandfather.

“A lot of members felt they had a general idea of the formation of the club, but not the specifics,” says club Director of Golf Chip King. “Many were hearing the story for the first time. Now they have a much better appreciation for what a unique blend of talents and personalities went into creating this wonderful club.”

The story of Grandfather — and, in fact, the town of Linville itself — begins with Donald MacRae Sr., a Wilmington businessman who developed interests in minerals mining in the mountains in the late 1800s. He and a group of investors conceived the settlement of Linville and the

creation of the original Eseeola Inn. Eventually the MacRae family would own nearly 16,000 acres of land in Avery County.

Grandson Julian Morton lived in Wilmington and was an accomplished golfer and an early president of the Carolinas Golf Association in 1934 and 1935. He taught his daughter Aggie to play golf, and she was an excellent competitor as a young girl. At age 15, she won the consolation bracket of the championship flight of the Women’s Carolinas Amateur. She played on the boys’ golf team at New Hanover High and made the quarterfinals of the 1948 U.S. Women’s Amateur.

Aggie’s brother Hugh had fiddled with golf as a youth but developed a keen interest in photography. He was a counselor at a camp in Linville in 1939 when a tow-headed 14-year-old boy shockingly took the lead in the first round of the prestigious Linville Men’s Invitational. The sports editor of *The Charlotte News* called the club for a photo of the lad and the golf staff summoned young Morton to take a picture; he then shipped it to Charlotte — it was one of the first photographs by Hugh Morton ever published. It was also the first golf tournament win for the 14-year-old kid from Tarboro, Harvie Ward.

Aggie and Hugh inherited parcels of some 2,000 acres each of mountain land from their grandfather in 1952. Hugh used his to create the Grandfather Mountain scenic attraction. Aggie’s land was situated in the Linville River Valley, and it occurred to her in 1964 exactly what



► Above: Bob Hope, future N.C. Gov. James Holshouser, Gen. William Westmoreland, Clifford Roberts, and Bob Kletcke. Opposite page: Aggie Morton with Ellis Maples.



► Grandfather No. 6

she could do with it. Frustrated by the crowded conditions at Linville Golf Club, she said, "I think we need another golf course here."

The idea sprouted into reality when Aggie hired Ellis Maples, a Donald Ross disciple. He agreed to design the course within several of her design parameters: Every hole should be self-contained in the forest around it, and, where possible, natural mountain backdrops should be focal points in hole layouts. Construction started in 1965.

"Aggie loved the area and she was excited about the construction and the building of her dream," says Bob Kletcke, who at the time was the assistant pro at Linville GC in the summer and at Augusta National in the winter. "I can remember her excitement showing me the plans — she opened them up on the trunk of a car and showed me every hole. Of course, it's pretty hard to visualize it looking at a blueprint of what a hole is going to look like. But it really turned out great."

As the project evolved, Aggie realized she needed help in the business, marketing, and financial realms. The project was costing significantly more than she had envisioned because of the difficulty of moving rock and clearing the thick forests to make room for the holes. That's when brother Hugh and John Williams stepped in.

Williams grew up in Cuba but spent time in Linville, where he and Morton met as young boys and became lifelong friends. Williams now lived in Tulsa, Okla., running the Williams Companies, an oil and gas exploration concern. Hugh knew his photographic and promotional skills could tell the story of the new club, and his extensive contacts in business and government would help grease wheels for permits and attract interest from potential members. Williams understood how to talk to bankers and lawyers and negotiate financing. His banker on the Grandfather account was a young man named Hugh McColl, who was on the rise at a new bank called North Carolina National Bank — which he would later build into the financial powerhouse NationsBank.

The club opened with an exhibition in the fall of 1968 that featured Billy Joe Patton, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice, and Kletcke, who became the club's first head pro. From the beginning the course has consistently ranked as one of the top two or three in

the state. Between 1971 and 2003, Grandfather G&CC hosted four Carolinas-Virginias team matches as well as other CGA events.

"We overcame a lot — cost overruns, 21-percent interest rates, oil prices soaring," says Williams. "But the beauty of the land and a great golf course eventually prevailed. We sold all the lots and turned the club over to the members in the early 1980s."

That heritage, combined with the club's desire to create an event several notches above the typical member-guest, led to the idea for the Founders Cup, which will become an annual event. Tim Arnoult and Kevin Glaser won the tournament, beating Robert Gefaell Jr. and Bill Hyder in the championship match.

"We have a member-guest and various 'fun' tournaments," says Tournament Chairman Barry Cook. "But we thought, 'We have such a wonderful golf course, why not showcase it with a top-notch competitive tournament?' We drew a very strong field for our first one — five players with plus-handicaps and 28 at 5 or better."

The weekend included a Friday night presentation on the contributions of the three founders. Aggie Woodruff and John Williams attended. Williams addressed the group with stories of comedian Bob Hope, who visited as the guest of club member Gen. William Westmoreland and brought 11 suitcases for the weekend, and club member Clifford Roberts, the co-founder of Augusta National Golf Club.

Hugh Morton, who died in 2006, liked to tell the story of the door and demanding Roberts visiting the club shortly after its opening.

"Everyone was quivering and quaking, scared to death about his visit," Morton said. "I made up my mind I wasn't going to be intimidated. I didn't ask him how he liked the course, because I didn't want him to have the chance to cut us down."

On the final day of the visit, Morton had lunch with Roberts.

"Hugh, most mountain golf courses aren't worth a damn," Roberts said. "But this is the best one I've seen."

Over 43 years, most who visit certainly agree.

► Lee Pace is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

2011 CGA Championship Results*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
3rd Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/4-5	Jackson Taylor/ Courtney Boe
17th Tar Heel Cup Matches	Dormie Club, West End, N.C.	3/28-29	CPGA Professionals
North Carolina High School Invitational	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/4	Leesville Road HS, Raleigh
34th Carolinas Pro-Am Club Championship	The Reserve GC, Pawley's Island, S.C.	4/11	Raleigh CC: B. Smith/B. Kitterl
31st Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Carolina GC, Charlotte, N.C.	4/15-17	Paul Tucker
43rd Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	CC of Spartanburg, Spartanburg, S.C.	4/19-21	Frank Ford III/Bill Smunk
8th NC Women's Senior	Pinewood CC, Asheboro, N.C.	4/20-21	Angela Stewart
60th Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/4-8	Scott Harvey/Patrick Brady
6th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/7-8	Chelsey Couch
26th NC Senior Amateur	North Ridge CC (Lake), Raleigh, N.C.	5/17-19	Paul Simson
39th SC Amateur Match Play	Carolina CC, Spartanburg, S.C.	6/15-19	Mark Joye
51st NC Amateur	Greensboro CC (Farm), Greensboro, N.C.	6/16-19	Harold Varner
NC Junior (44th Boys/15th Girls)	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/21-24	Stanhope Johnson Jr./Sarah Bae
2nd Carolinas Senior-Junior Championship	Devils Ridge GC, Holly Springs, N.C.	6/27	John Deluise/ Grayson Murray
55th Carolinas Junior Girls' Championship	Members Club at Woodcreek Farms, Elgin, S.C.	6/28-30	Kelli Murphy
14th Carolinas Women's Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/12-14	Dawn Woodward
34th SC Junior Match Play (34th Boys/12th Girls)	Sunset CC, Sumter, S.C.	7/12-15	Carson Young/McKenzie Talbert
97th Carolinas Amateur	The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, S.C.	7/14-17	Scott Harvey
3rd Carolinas Super Senior	The Reserve GC, Pawley's Island, S.C.	7/18-19	Larry Boswell
5th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro Municipal GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/18-19	James Sugg
45th Twin States Junior Girls' Championship	Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C.	7/26-27	Victoria Allred
62nd Carolinas Junior Boys' Championship	Gaston CC, Gastonia, N.C.	7/26-28	Will Long
45th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/29	Walker/Jackson Taylor
45th Carolinas Father-Son	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines	7/29	Scott Azzarelli/Scott Azzarelli II
14th Carolinas Parent-Child	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/29	Gary/Elizabeth Robinson
10th Mid-Atlantic Challenge/Junior Girls' Team	Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/30-31	Virginia-Maryland team
6th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Rock Barn Golf & Spa (Jones), Conover, N.C.	8/1	Mike Byce/Forrest Fowler
34th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Porters Neck CC, Wilmington, N.C.	8/2-3	Peg Brady/Patty Moore
11th NC Senior Four-Ball	High Point CC (Willow Creek), High Point, N.C.	8/2-4	Gary Brown/Ron Carpenter
2nd NC Amateur Match Play Championship	Bermuda Run CC, Bermuda Run, N.C.	8/3-7	Harold Varner
7th Dogwood State Junior (Boys/Girls)	Cutter Creek GC, Snow Hill, N.C.	8/9-11	Daniel Brantley/Evelyn Dole
29th Carolinas-Virginias Junior Matches	Boonsboro CC, Lynchburg, Va.	8/13-14	Carolinas Team
6th Carolinas Mixed Team	Ocean Ridge Plantation (Panther's Run), Sunset Beach, N.C.	9/3-4	Jordan Walor/Shana Walor
18th NC Mid-Amateur Championship	River Run CC, Davidson, N.C.	9/9-11	Brian Westveer
50th Carolinas Senior Amateur	Columbia CC, Blythewood, S.C.	9/21-23	John Dennis III
4th NC Super Senior Championship	Cross Creek CC, Mt. Airy, N.C.	9/27-28	Mike Sprouts
16th NC Four-Ball	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	10/7-9	David Donovan IV/ Jonathan Miles
13th Carolinas Women's Senior	Callawassie Island Club, Callawassie Island, S.C.	10/11-12	Patty Moore
66th Captain's Putter (Carolinas-Virginias)	Forest Creek GC, Southern Pines, N.C.	10/14-15	Virginias Team
1st Carolinas Net Amateur	Myrtle Beach area courses	11/19-20	

NOTE

* Visit carolinasp.org for a preliminary schedule of 2012 events and qualifying sites, plus schedules for CGA one-day and senior four-ball events, CGA Interclub, Tarheel Youth Golf Association tournaments, USGA Championship qualifying sites, and updated player and team rankings. **Reminder:** MyCGA users can register for tournaments online at carolinasp.org.

A Real Northern Exposure

DAVID CANIPE FINDS GOLF 'MECCA' IN HAINES, ALASKA / written by LEE PACE

David Canipe was winding up the winter of 2006 officiating on the Hooters Tour in Florida when his brother phoned with news of a potential club pro job. Ronnie Canipe is a salesman for Golf Associates Inc. in Asheville, a leading golf scorecard printer. He told David about a course located in a sexy resort setting complete with water, stunning mountain views, and abundant wildlife.

"Great, where is it?" David asked.

"Don't worry about that," Ronnie answered, and then went on to tell his brother more about the job.

"OK, where is it?" David pressed.

"Alaska."

"Talk to you later, bye."

Then Canipe, a native of High Point and a 10-year veteran of the PGA Tour, began thinking more about it, particularly the potential escape from another hot Florida summer. He phoned Stanley Jones, a retired doctor in the southeast Alaska town of Haines who had built a nine-hole course on 50 acres he owned alongside the Chilkat River. Jones was looking to hire a pro (his original appointee backed out at the last minute) before the five-month summer golf season opened in May.

"He said he'd send a round-trip plane ticket, get me a place to stay, give me a salary, and let me keep all my lesson income," Canipe says. "I figured, I can stand on my head for five months if I have to. If it's awful, I'll survive."

Canipe moved from Orlando to Alaska and worked for two seasons at The Valley of the Eagle Golf Links. The nine holes are built on tidal flats, and several holes are prone to flooding in the winter. By spring, though, the water recedes and golfers can traverse a 3,300-yard course where balls might land in moose tracks, bears are catching salmon in the distance, and ravens sometimes sweep in

to swipe balls from the practice range. Canipe shares the nine-hole course record with a 33.

"It's quite a sight," Canipe says. "There's nothing like it in Florida or North Carolina."



► David Canipe won the 1972 Carolinas Amateur.

Canipe, 58, was an All-America golfer at the University of Georgia. He won the 1972 Carolinas Amateur, and the 1973 and '74 North Carolina Amateur. He turned pro in 1974 and won the Provident Classic, an event on the Tournament Players Series schedule.

"I made about a million dollars," he says of his pro career, "and spent about two million."

Canipe left the golf business in Haines after two seasons — after he married Beverly Jones, the proprietor of King's Store, the town's office and photographic supply purveyor. Now Canipe jokes that he's "executive vice president" for the family-run shop.

"I was immediately attracted to Beverly," Canipe says. "She didn't wear Carhartt's and snow boots, and that caught my attention. So

I finally got up the nerve to ask her out. Her first response was, 'Well, I am sorry, Dave, but I don't date men from Haines.' I said, 'Well, that don't matter to me. I'm from Orlando, Florida, so what else you got?' I asked her to marry me the second year I was here. We've basically been soul mates ever since."

Haines has a population of about 2,500 residents. All the businesses are "mom-and-pops," Canipe says, and there are no big-box stores or chains.

"We have a nice little niche," he says. "I have a three-block walk to work every morning. The dog walks with me. The winters aren't too bad — we're in the 'balmy' part of the state, with the ocean breezes. Places like Chicago and Minnesota are far more brutal in the winter. Our problem is we get maybe five hours of sunlight when December comes around, and two of those are gray."

Canipe visits his brother in Waynesville, a sister in Wilmington, and plays golf at Pinehurst on his trips back east. But life is good in the Pacific Northwest. "Five months has turned into five years," he says.

► Lee Pace is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

In the Short Grass

+ HOW TO HIT MORE FAIRWAYS

/ written by KAREN NICOLETTI / illustrations by KEVIN FALES

If you play many different golf courses, have you noticed that **each hole requires a different situation off the tee?** Some fairways slope left to right, some right to left. Some are narrow and some are wide; there are bunkers on the left and bunkers on the right.

Being accurate with your driver sets the tone for the rest of the hole, and possibly the entire round.

There are many holes where, if you're even slightly off the fairway, you're in serious trouble. Accuracy off the tee should be priority No. 1.

Here are a few tips to keep you in the short grass.

+ Think '7-Iron'

To avoid trouble off the tee, try to swing your driver like it's a 7-iron. Why? You usually hit your 7-iron to a specific distance, rather than thinking you want to hit it as far as you can. Odds are, you're trying to hit your driver as far as you can and are hoping that it stays in the fairway. The tendency is to grip it and rip it.



Instead, locate a spot in the fairway and find the distance from the tee, just like you would if you were hitting your 7-iron into a green. Try to drive to a specific distance and location instead of driving for distance.

A few thoughts to keep in mind:

- Know how far you hit your driver.
- Pick specific targets in the fairway.
- Slow down your swing speed, perhaps to about 70 percent.

+ Think 'Safety First'

Keep an eye out for trouble. Consider whether you even need to hit the driver. Is it going to put you near or in trouble? If it might, hit a 3-wood or hybrid instead.

Try to find the widest part of the fairway, so that each time you have a specific area to hit. Remember that the widest area is usually the safest area. If you're not sure where the safest area is, aim for the 150-yard marker — it is usually in a safe spot.

Don't play it too safe. I always opt for the safest play, unless it puts me at too large of a disadvantage. A safe long iron off the tee isn't a good idea if it leaves me a long iron into the green.

+ Use the Tee Box

One thing that can save you short-term is to use the tee box to your advantage. Tee the ball up on the far right side of the tee box to hit away from the trouble on the left. Aim far enough left that even your biggest slice will stay out of trouble. If you tend to hook, reverse the process.

+ Practice Tips

When on the practice tee, visualize a fairway. Pick out two targets and picture a narrow one; then pick out two more and envision a wide one. Practice hitting to the middle of both. The next time you are on the tee box, you'll have more confidence that you can hit the ball to the middle.

Have fun hitting more fairways, and watch your score drop!

► **Karen Nicoletti** is a Class A LPGA golf professional and runs the Nicoletti Golf Academy at Grande Dunes Resort. Contact her at nicolettigolf@aol.com.

Ahead of the Curve

A HANDICAP SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

/ written by JACK NANCE, CGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / illustrations by KEVIN FALES

During my senior year of high school, I took Ms. Burns' Typing 101 class on a whim. I really didn't think I'd need to use such rare talent going forward in my life ... but the girls in the class were pretty.

Little did I know, Typing 101 might arguably be the best course I ever took! For the next 14 years, I became personal friends with my portable typewriter — it was certainly useful for college term papers. I took to adding cartridges and correction ribbon (at least it was electric!), trying not to drown in a sea of Wite-Out.

But by 1995, something shocking happened. Smith-Corona, a company synonymous with typewriters, declared bankruptcy. They had failed to adapt to change. Still, while typewriters themselves

became obsolete, the act of typing did not. With the advent of personal computers, it's become a way of life.

As the Carolinas Golf Association heads into 2012, technology is still changing at a fast rate — especially the power of the World Wide Web. Many of our day-to-day activities require online visits — from checking bank balances and sports scores to visiting the addictive Facebook site. And searching for answers to just about anything online sure beats heading to the library.

How does this affect you and the CGA?

It's about keeping pace with change.

In 1966, the CGA began a "state-of-the-art" service for our clubs. This "new" system provided 18-hole golf score postings on 11x14 paper sheets hung on the golf shop wall. Those reports were mailed to a computation service each month. In turn, the service returned paper handicap cards that were effective for the next month. And 30 days later, we would do it all again.

In 1990, the CGA transitioned from the paper service to computers. We continued to embrace change — migrating from



DOS (remember that?) to Windows, and moving from black-and-white monitors to colorful, animated touch screens.

Today, we're at another crossroads. The CGA is embarking on a cutting-edge, Web-based handicapping service called GN21 ("GN" refers to GolfNet, our handicapping vendor, and "21" refers to the 21st century).

GN21 provides browser-based software on any computer, with access to the Internet. Your scores and information are immediately viewable after posting, and everything is "real time." Handicap revisions are posted automatically on the 1st and 15th of the month.

In short, we're staying ahead of the curve. Moving all our member clubs to a Web-based system will allow us to communicate one-on-one more effectively with our golfers and each other.

When using GN21, golfers posting at the club will see a simple template on a touch-screen monitor, which will make posting simple. Golfers posting at home can access a much more interactive experience — from the ability to make "buddy lists" to checking the weather.

Best of all? There is no additional cost to the club!

To date, 75 clubs representing 16,000 CGA members have made the switch. We'd like to avoid a "Smith-Corona" type of story and keep moving forward, getting all of our 700-plus member clubs to keep pace in the 21st century ... and beyond.

If your club has not made the transition to GN21, please contact GolfNet's Tim Heffner at tim.heffner@golfnet.com or (800) 875-7888, ext. 101, or contact the CGA at (910) 673-1000.

