

carolinasgolf

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Spring 2014



BROWN IS IN FOR GOLF & U.S. OPENS

PINEHURST NO. 2 DESIGNED
FOR FIRM AND FAST PLAY

› **HICKORY STICKS**
BRINGING GENTILITY BACK
TO GOLF

› **FROM FAIRWAYS TO AIRWAYS**
MAGINNES CRAFTS NEW CAREER
WITH GOLF RADIO SHOW

Conserving Water

14

Competitors, spectators, and television viewers at the **2014 back-to-back U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open at Pinehurst** in June will see a No. 2 course shorn of thick rough and resplendent in the browns, creams, and yellows of the native sandy waste and hardpan areas — and groomed to have bouncy fairways.

> Pinehurst No.2, Hole No. 14

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John Maginnes crafts a new career in radio with a daily show on Sirius-XM Radio and covering various PGA Tour events.

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Wooden clubs and period attire mark Hickory Sticks competition at Asheville's historic Grove Park Inn.

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Architects Bill Coore (left) and Ben Crenshaw at Pinehurst. *Photo by John Gessner courtesy of Pinehurst.*



Springtime Golf, Carolinas Golf House, and Slow Play

/ by G. JACKSON HUGHES JR., President, Carolinas Golf Association

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> I thank the Carolinas Golf Association executive committee for allowing me to serve as the 53rd president of the CGA. I believe that we have the best golf association in America, with an exceptional staff, excellent tournaments, and superior golf courses. That's not to say that there aren't ways we can improve, and I will be asking the committee and staff to look for opportunities to do so every day. I look forward to serving you over the next two years!

We are all so fortunate to live and play golf here in the Carolinas, and there is nothing more exciting than springtime golf. Every serious golfer I know looks at each spring as a fresh start. The new year starts bogey free, and all the missed 3-footers from last year have faded from memory. I find myself checking out new equipment, researching new exercises that might help improve my game, penciling in dates of tournaments, and anticipating that first nice day on the driving range.

This spring is also when the Carolinas take the national stage. The Masters is just a month away, the RBC Heritage is the following week, and the Wells Fargo Championship is the first week of May. For the amateur competitor, the Carolinas Amateur will be played the second week of July. I am particularly excited about that because it will be hosted at my home golf course, the Greenville Country Club's Chanticleer.

Also greatly anticipated this year is the new 13,000-square-foot Carolinas Golf House adjacent to the conference center at the Pine Needles Resort in Southern Pines, N.C. It will be a wonderful addition to Pine Needles, housing the CGA museum along with the CGA staff. The association has grown from 52 tournaments and a four-person staff in 1991, when they moved to the current facility in West End, N.C., to 235 tournaments and 14 full-time employees on staff today. The building is both greatly needed and anticipated, and I encourage each member to visit after its completion this year.

Lastly, one initiative I would like to address this year is the slow play issue that plagues tournament and leisure golf. There are several things that we could do as an association to address this issue. The five-hour-plus round of golf in tournaments is simply too long and totally unnecessary. The Texas Golf Association has identified one effective solution. I played a USGA-qualifying event in Fort Worth, Texas, where all players were required to read and sign a piece of paper acknowledging a group time limit. We were warned that if any group was later than the allotted time after nine holes, every person in that group would be penalized one stroke. The TGA also used volunteers to determine if one particular player was holding up a group so that others in the group playing at the proper pace would not be unduly penalized. While seemingly harsh, it was effective. We actually finished in less than the time allotted, and the pace of play was absolutely delightful! I think this deserves our consideration here.

Where I play, most of the guys are vocal enough that slow play is not much of an issue, and we regularly finish in four hours or less. That just gives us more time to agonize over that missed 3-footer back in the clubhouse.

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MILESTONES

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

› **Stephen Garfield Hinshaw** of Pinehurst, 70, died Nov. 16,



2013. A past president of the Carolinas Golf Association (2008-09), he served on the board of directors of the Country Club of North Carolina and spent 25 years working for IBM. He is survived by his wife, Dianne; daughters Amy Hinshaw (Paul Kurzeja) and Sarah Hinshaw; and his brother, John Hinshaw.

Steve guided the CGA through its preparatory years for the CGA Centennial in 2009.

› **Lloyd M. Clifton Sr.**, 89, a fellow of the American Society

of Golf Course Architects and a founding member of the design firm Clifton, Ezell, Clifton Golf Design Group, died in December 2013. Clifton's background as an agronomy consultant led to his involvement in more than 150 golf course projects, including Highland Creek in Charlotte, N.C. Clifton is survived by his wife of 65 years, Bonnie Jean; sons Lloyd Jr. (Clif), George, and Craig, along with their wives; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



› **Clarence Alexander** of Raleigh, 87, winner of the precursor of the North Carolina Amateur championship in 1955, died in December 2013. A five-time winner of the Raleigh City championship before turning professional, he served 17 years as head golf professional at Ayden Golf & Country Club.

MAIL

Kudos on 'Get 'em Moving'

I compliment you on the "Get 'em moving" article in the recent *Carolinas Golf* magazine (Fall 2013). We have all been behind the turtles in spikes who seem more interested in taking up residence than in playing golf.

For your consideration, I offer a sign I once saw in a golf course pro shop. The rather large sign simply read, "Your proper place on the course is behind the group ahead of you, not ahead of the group behind you."

Thomas R. Hawk
Lincolnton, N.C.



Carolinas Golf House Marks New Chapter for CGA

/ written by MICHAEL DANN

It likely started as a drawer in a desk at the Country Club of Charleston, a little more than 104 years ago. The first Carolina Amateur was complete, and competitors from seven fledgling Carolinas clubs formed the Carolina Golf Association to run the amateur championship.

The CGA proceeded slowly, adding staff, trophies, and a four-drawer filing cabinet in the first 30 years. It took 30 years to create

a second CGA championship, the Carolinas Junior, and move to a more central location.

The CGA was nurtured in that second 30-year span by Richard S. Tufts, grandson of the founder of the Pinehurst resort in the North Carolina Sandhills. He moved the CGA office to Pinehurst, where it survived the Great Depression and going inactive for several years during two world wars.

In 1971, the CGA offices were moved to Tanglewood Resort in Clemmons, N.C., overlooking the 18th green of the course on which the 1974 PGA Championship was played. In 1973, the Carolina name was made plural.

In 1991, the CGA purchased a building in Seven Lakes Village in the North Carolina Sandhills. This effort was led by Richard Tufts' son, Peter, who designed the course at Seven Lakes Country Club. By then, there were four full-time employees.

Now the Carolinas Golf Association is building its own offices, and plenty more, from the ground up. The seed for this effort was sown nearly a half-dozen years ago as

> CGA staff and executive committee at the Pine Needles site of the new Carolinas Golf House in Southern Pines, N.C.

the CGA staff began to outgrow its current offices. The in-house staff count now is 14.

The CGA purchased a plot on the Pine Needles resort property on Ridge Road in Southern Pines. Construction of a 13,000-square-foot, two-story building started over the winter months.

Carolinas Golf House allows for growth into the 21st century. After Phase II fundraising is complete, it will have a museum. The first phase, finishing the building itself, should be finished by the fall of 2014.

"Anytime you move into a new facility, you have the time to rethink everything we do," says CGA President G. Jackson Hughes, Jr. "It is an invigorating time."

"This has been a long time in coming," notes Executive Director Jack Nance. "We want this museum to show how really meaningful the Carolinas have been to the game of golf."

WELCOME NEW CGA MEMBER CLUBS

Asheboro Country Club
Asheboro, N.C.

Charlotte Golf Links
Charlotte, N.C.

Crooked Creek Women's Golf Association
Hendersonville, N.C.

Cleghorn Plantation Golf & Country Club
Rutherford, N.C.

► **Pace of Play: The Nine-Hole Alternative**

When experts try to determine why more people don't play golf, answers tend to fall into at least three categories: the game is too slow, too expensive, too hard to learn — or some combination of those.

In its own surveys in 2013, the National Golf Foundation asked golfers about nine-hole rounds. Across the U.S., 27 percent of all courses are nine-hole facilities. The Carolinas boast more than 40 nine-hole courses — about 6 percent of all of our courses. And 18-hole and multi-course facilities also can offer nine-hole alternatives.

The NGF found that three out of four golfers will play a nine-hole round when time is important to them. The study also showed that more than half (54 percent) play less or even significantly less because of pace, lending credence to the USGA mantra, "While We're Young!"

The USGA handicap system accepts the posting of nine-hole scores; the system

QUICK IDEA: Form a **Pace of Play Committee at your club. Focus on the positive actions this committee can adopt to quicken pace and settle issues. Go to www.usga.org and type "pace of play" in the Search Box for helpful information.**

combines them after a golfer posts two nine-hole scores. The USGA, in fact, requires golfers to post nine-hole scores.

About 5 percent of the golfers in the NGF survey report that they play only

nine-hole rounds. While figures are not yet available for 2013 Carolinas golfers, we know that 10.5 percent of all rounds played last year in the Carolinas were nine-hole rounds. Seven out of each eight rounds in this category were played by women. The validity of a nine-hole round remains a marketing effort to be sold to male golfers.

— *Compiled by Tom Johnson, Scott Gerbereux, and Michael Dann*



► **2014 Rules of Golf Seminar Schedule**

Carolinas Golf Association is presenting its series of USGA *Rules of Golf* Seminars.

The CGA will conduct about 250 tournaments, championships, and qualifiers in 2014. Rules education programs are free to any golfer, whether interested in becoming a rules official or just learning more about the *Rules of Golf*.

Attendees will view a narrated computer presentation on the basics of the *Rules of Golf*, followed by question-and-answer sessions. Seminars typically last between 1½ to 2 hours. A 2012-15 USGA *Rules of Golf* book will be given free of charge to each participant.

Attendees are asked to preregister at www.carolinagolf.org, email admin@carolinagolf.org, or call 910-673-1000.

- Woodside Plantation Country Club, Aiken, S.C. - 3/3
- Ballantyne Country Club, Charlotte, N.C. - 3/4
- Forest City Municipal Golf Course, Forest City, N.C. - 3/5
- Lonnie Poole Golf Course at NC State, Raleigh, N.C. - 3/5
- National Golf Club, Pinehurst, N.C. - 3/6
- Hendersonville Country Club, Hendersonville, N.C. - 3/10
- Port Royal Golf Club, Hilton Head Island, S.C. - 3/11
- Holly Tree Country Club, Simpsonville, S.C. - 3/11
- Wescott Golf Club, Summerville, S.C. - 3/12
- Forest Lake Country Club, Columbia, S.C. - 3/13
- Pine Brook Country Club, Winston-Salem, N.C. - 3/18
- Members Club at Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, S.C. - 3/18
- Hope Valley Country Club, Durham, N.C. - 3/19
- Taberna Country Club, New Bern, N.C. - 3/19
- Country Club of Landfall (Dye), Wilmington, N.C. - 3/20

► **Course Reclaims Tillinghast Pedigree at Rock Hill Country Club**

Course architect Kris Spence has completed renovations to the Rock Hill Country Club course. Nine holes were designed by legendary A.W. Tillinghast in 1934; the second nine, designed by Gene Hamm, were added in 1974.

Spence used an aerial photo from 1941 to guide his work to restore the Tillinghast

nine. On the back nine, he attempted to emulate Tillinghast's work.

"It was obvious there were really strong bones to the Tillinghast side, so we restored that nine," Spence says. "On the back nine, we remodeled bunkers and adjusted green contours in the spirit of Tillinghast's work on the front nine.

We reclaimed about 30 percent of putting surface area. Many (hole) locations

Tillinghast built into the greens had been lost."

Spence added 74 bunkers and reclaimed Tillinghast's "great hazard" on the seventh hole, a straightaway par 5. The original design featured an area of mounds, bunkers, and native grasses, which ended the fairway just past the halfway mark.



► Rock Hill CC, Hole No. 7

► **Revised Ranking Systems for Carolinas Golfers**

The Carolinas Golf Association has revised ranking systems for 2014.

For men and senior men, the revised system combines the Carolinas ranking system with Carolinas Team point standings. Events have been added to the rankings calendar, along with a revision of event multipliers and bonus points. To be eligible for the Carolinas Men's or Senior Men's team, a player now must have competed in a CGA or South Carolina Golf Association championship in the last year.

For women and senior women, events were added to the rankings calendar and a reallocation of event multipliers was implemented to balance like events. Also, rankings will be used to fill the Carolinas Women's Team roster.



> Hasentree in Wake Forest to Get New Clubhouse

Toll Brothers Inc. recently broke ground on a new clubhouse in the Hasentree community in Wake Forest, N.C., north of Raleigh. The 16,500-square-foot resident clubhouse frames the award-winning, 18-hole, Tom Fazio-designed golf course opened in 2006.

The clubhouse will be of Old World

European design and include sloping stone walls and timber framing. Slated to open in fall 2014, it will feature a lobby with soaring vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, private bar area, locker rooms, a large flex room for social gatherings or corporate meetings, and a main dining room with access to covered outdoor dining offering views of the 10th and 18th holes.

> New Player's Club Formed for NC Juniors

The Carolinas Golf Association has formed a new Tournament Player's Club for the Tarheel Youth Golf Association (TYGA), created by the CGA in 1996.

TYGA offers tournaments and serves as a clearinghouse for junior golf information.

Open to junior golfers from North Carolina who are 18 or younger, the Player's Club offers a \$15 discount on TYGA tournament entry fees, priority tournament registration periods (seven days), and an upgraded membership packet. Cost to join is \$25 per person.



"The number of junior events has grown during the last decade," says Jason Cox, CGA Director of Junior Golf. "We continue to offer these services, and our events have grown in popularity.

"The Player's Club will allow us to generate revenue to continue operations and expand our services."

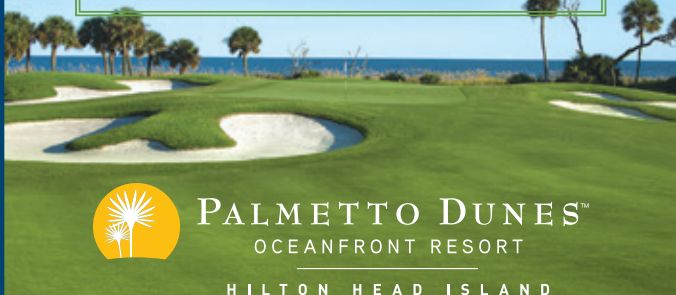
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Etc. Etc. Etc. Etc.

➤ **The Carolinas Golf Association has hired Chris Zeh** as Associate Junior Golf Director. The 29-year-old from Cary, N.C.,



will oversee the Tarheel Youth Golf Association and assist Director of Junior Golf Jason Cox in creating a series of events for boys and girls between ages 5 and

12. Zeh also will help promote the junior program with concentration on junior girls' tournaments via social media.

A graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in physical education, Zeh taught high school physical education in North Carolina before returning to college to earn a master's degree in sports administration. A USGA Boatwright intern with the CGA in 2009, Zeh worked as a tournament director with the NGA Professional Golf Tour.

➤ **Brian Powell, head golf course superintendent** at Old Chatham Golf Club in Durham,



N.C., has been named president of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Powell also serves on the USGA Green Section Committee and the

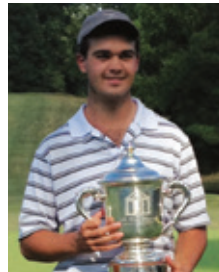
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Neuse River Modeling Project Stakeholders Panel.

➤ **Donna Mummert** has left her position as assistant director at the USGA to take a job as a rules official for the LPGA tour. Mummert is a former Carolinas Golf Association intern.

➤ **Michael Dingus** of Bluffton, S.C., found a highly unusual way to make a hole-in-one in a CGA senior four-ball tournament. Playing the 160-yard 13th hole of the Riverside Course at Greenville (S.C.) Country Club, he hit the green in regulation. He marked and cleaned his ball. When it was his turn to play, he replaced his ball next to the coin

and walked away. After a few seconds at rest, the ball rolled into the hole. Decision 20-sd/1 deals with this. As long as the ball came to rest on the spot where he replaced it and then rolled into the hole, Dingus is deemed to have holed out with his previous stroke.

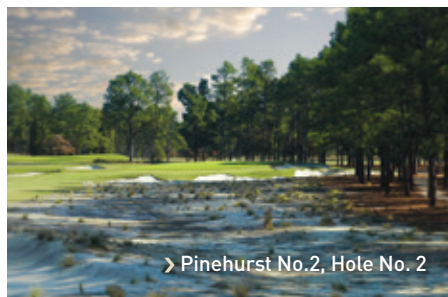
➤ **Emilia Migliaccio**, 14, of Cary, N.C., and **Will Blalock**, 17, of Gastonia, N.C., have been named 2013 N.C. Junior Players of the Year



by the Tarheel Youth Golf Association and the Carolinas Golf Association. Blalock has signed to play golf at North Carolina State University.

➤ **Several Carolinas properties rated among Golfweek's list of top resort courses for 2014.**

They include Pinehurst (No. 2) in Pinehurst, N.C., at the number 3 spot; Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, S.C., at 13; Pine Needles in Southern Pines, N.C., at 20; Caledonia Golf & Fish Club in Pawleys Island, S.C., at 25; the May River Course at Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, S.C., at 30; the Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at 33;



➤ Pinehurst No. 2, Hole No. 2

the Linville Golf Club in Linville, N.C., at 37; Tobacco Road in Sanford, N.C., at 50; the Mid Pines Club in Southern Pines, N.C., at 64; Pinehurst No. 8 in Pinehurst, at 70; and Pinehurst No. 4 in Pinehurst, at 79.

➤ **Four Carolinas Golf Association Scholarships** totaling \$7,000 were awarded to Clemson University students for the 2013-14 school year. Recipients included Alexander Craigie, a turfgrass major from Bradford, N.H., \$2,000; Christopher Jordan of Seneca, S.C., a turfgrass major, \$1,000;

Michael Muise of Chelmsford, Mass., \$2,000 to study turfgrass; and Cody Wroblewski of Summerville, S.C., \$2,000 to study horticulture.

➤ **Brad Clayton** of Oxford, N.C., prevailed in the Overall Arm Amputee long drive contest in late October, edging **John Trenchik** of Toledo, Ohio, in the final, 254 yards to 252. Clayton works with Wounded Warriors from Camp LeJeune Marine Base and Fort Bragg Army Base.

➤ **Brad Parker, general manager of Patriots Point Links** in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., was featured in a Golf Channel *PGA Year in Review*

show that aired in December. Parker teamed up with Special Olympics athlete **Trampus Hoover** to earn a Silver Medal in the 2013 Special Olympics North



America Golf Invitational held in New Jersey.

➤ **The Inn at Harbour Town at The Sea Pines Resort** in Hilton Head, S.C., is listed among *Conde Nast Traveler's* "Top 20 Resorts in the South" Readers' Choice Award recipients. Also in 2013, the Inn at Harbour Town announced the opening of a new infinity edge pool and terrace overlooking Harbour Town Golf Links.

➤ **National Golf Management** has assumed management responsibilities for accommodations at Pawleys Plantation Golf & Country Club in Pawleys Island, S.C. **Virginia Pushia** has been named director of accommodations.

➤ **Edward V. Galasso** of Ladson, S.C., has been designated a certified club maker by the International Clubmakers Guild.

➤ **The National Golf Foundation** reports U.S. golfer numbers have declined in the last eight years, by 4.7 million to 25.3 million. The foundation cites two trends: more people are dropping the game than taking it up and those who drop out tend to be those who were not dedicated to it in the first place.

Ed. Note: The last name of Tom Hoch, selected to create a master plan for the clubhouse at Starmount Forest Country Club, was spelled incorrectly in the Winter 2013/14 Etc. column. We regret the error.

Players of the Year 2013



HARVEY, WOODARD LEAD THE LIST — AGAIN

/ illustrations by MATT LEBARRE

Two familiar names top the list of 2013 Carolinas Golf Association Players of the Year (PoY).

Scott Harvey, who lives in High Point, N.C., and **Dawn Woodard** of Greer, S.C., were named amateur players of the year — just as they were in 2012. In fact, this makes three years in a row for Harvey.

Rick Cloninger of Fort Mill, S.C., and **Ashley Rose** of North Augusta, S.C., are first-timers as Senior CGA PoY. Juniors **Tim Conover** of Holly Springs, N.C., and **Reona Hirai** of Summerville, S.C., also took honors.

Harvey won the Carolinas Mid-Amateur and the Azalea Amateur. He tied for second in the North Carolina Mid-

Amateur, and tied for fourth in the Carolinas Mid-Amateur.

Woodard was a medalist in the USGA Women's Mid-Amateur and won one round, won her fourth WSCGA match play title, finished second in the WSCGA stroke play amateur, and tied for 9th in the Southern Women's Amateur.

Cloninger won the Carolinas Senior Amateur and the Chanticleer Senior. He tied for second in the National Senior Hall of Fame event, tied fifth in the Senior Azalea and North and South Senior, and tied sixth in the SCGA Senior Amateur.

A retired U.S. Navy captain and aviator, Rose won two senior women's titles: the Doherty and the Dixie. She lost

in a play-off for the Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur and won the senior division of the Carolinas Women's Amateur.

Conover won the Carolinas PGA Junior and was co-medalist in the TYGA Team Challenge. He was third in the Bobby Chapman Junior and tied third in the TYGA State Championship. He is headed to East Carolina University.

Hirai won the Beth Daniel Junior Azalea, the Blade Junior, and Joe Cheves Junior Invitational. She finished second in CGA's Twin State Girls tournament and won, for the second time, the South Carolina Junior Golf Association's Beth Daniel Award. She will attend Furman University, Daniel's alma mater.



Firm & Fast

ECHOES OF SCOTLAND FOR BACK-TO-BACK U.S. OPENS AT PINEHURST NO. 2

/ written by [LEE PACE](#)

From lush and green to firm and fast. Jim Hyler was going to forge a new path of thinking during his term as president of the United States Golf Association.

“We must reset the way that we look at golf courses,” Hyler said at the 2010 USGA annual meeting. “As we have for the U.S. Open, I believe that our definition of playability should include concepts of firm, fast, and yes, even brown, and allow the running game to flourish. We need to understand how brown can become the new green.”

On the same weekend Hyler addressed the USGA’s annual meeting in Pinehurst, plans were being finalized to retain architects Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw to shepherd a restoration of Pinehurst No. 2, removing some 40 acres of bermudagrass rough and more than 600 sprinkler heads and returning the course to a more natural, rough-hewn look.

The No. 2 project unfolded over 2010-11 and was roundly applauded by the world of golf upon completion. The No. 2 project was one of a handful of dominoes that fell over Hyler’s 2010-11 presidency and perfectly

illustrated his arguments for less water, fewer chemicals, more bounce to the fairway, and more visual contrast to monochrome green.

The 2010 U.S. Open was held at Pebble Beach. Hyler and USGA Executive Director Mike Davis limited the water applications leading up to the championship, which provided a brownish patina to parts of the course. The U.S. Amateurs in 2010 and ’11 were held on 100 percent fescue-grass courses — Chambers Bay in Washington state and Erin Hills in Wisconsin. TV viewers could blink and envision watching the British Open from the coast of Scotland.

“I have been quite frankly thrilled with the reception of those comments,” Hyler said as his tenure came to an end in February 2012. “There is a debate and a discussion around sustainable turfgrass management practices and about using less water, and people are talking about it.”

Photography courtesy of the resort







> Pinehurst No. 2, Hole No.13

'A Great Story'

Competitors, spectators, and television viewers at the 2014 back-to-back U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open at Pinehurst in June will see these tenets unfold on a No. 2 course shorn of thick rough and resplendent in the browns, creams, and yellows of the native sandy waste and hardpan areas — and groomed to have bouncy fairways.

"This is a great story for the game of golf in terms of water use and the concept of maintenance of the middle — where you really focus on teeing grounds, fairways, the greens, and the greens surrounds," Davis says. "It's a more enjoyable way to play. When you hit it off the beaten path, you have different lies, you have to create shots."

In previous U.S. Opens at Pinehurst in 1999 and 2005, the fairways were 23-25 yards wide and bordered by thick bermudagrass rough. In 2014, the element of luck is re-established — a wild tee ball could easily carom into woods off the hardpan. A missed fairway on one hole could find a clean lie on hardpan; yet another could be dead behind a clump of wire grass.

"The only water on those golf courses is what falls from the sky. The ball takes off, and you just say, 'Wow.'"

—Ben Crenshaw

'Something Different'

Ben Crenshaw made a name in competitive circles with two Masters titles and four Ryder Cup appearances, but he's carved a notable design niche over three decades for his appreciation of the history of golf and its classic architectural roots.

"Tournament golf has gotten to be 99.9 percent 'pound it out of heavy rough,'" Crenshaw says. "To me, it's very boring. I've gotten sick of it. There's got to be something different from that. Yet that's the mainstay of defenses put on courses. It's anything but interesting. I sense that other players feel that way also. And I think Mike Davis and the USGA recognize that."

In returning the No. 2 to its dimensions as set by Ross upon his 1935 completion, Coore and Crenshaw knew that the centerline irrigation heads remained in their original 1923 positions. They removed the two rows installed on the periphery in modern times to water the roughs and allowed the fairways to seek their natural dimensions — grass where rainfall or the center irrigation heads reached, natural sandy waste everywhere else.

"You have to go to Dornoch and to the old country to understand the appeal this ground had for Donald Ross," Crenshaw says. "You set your feet on links turf for the first time and you say, 'My gosh, this is bone dry, this is different.' The only water on those golf courses is what falls from the sky. The ball takes off and you just say, 'Wow.' The turf conditions there are very different.

"There are only a few spots where you can emulate Dornoch, and this is one of them."

> Lee Pace's latest book about Pinehurst, *The Golden Age of Pinehurst*, is available online and at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club.

From Fairways to Airways

MAGINNES CRAFTS NEW CAREER WITH GOLF RADIO SHOW

/ written by LEE PACE

John Maginnes spent 14 years earning his living playing golf. Then a decade ago, an elbow injury derailed his career and sent him to the gallery, **where he improvised and found another career.**

Instead of wielding 14 clubs inside the ropes, his stock in trade today is opinions, observations, and stories he shares on his daily radio show on Sirius-XM Radio and various PGA Tour events as they are covered live on satellite radio.

“I’m lucky — I’m 45 and have never really done anything for money,” says the Durham native and Greensboro resident. “I’ve done things I’ve loved and gotten paid for it.”

Stories? Maginnes has a million of them.

Take his last amateur golf competition in June 1991 just after graduation from East Carolina University. He was about to embark on a career in professional golf and entered the North Carolina Amateur at Alamance Country Club in Burlington, shooting 65-65 for the lead at the halfway point.

“I was still ahead by two or three going into the final round over some insurance salesman from Raleigh no one had ever heard of,” Maginnes says. “Then I shoot 68 the last day and (he) makes a 20-footer on the last hole that would have rolled off the green if



it hadn’t gone in. He gets to 18-under and I shoot 17-under.”

Maginnes smiles and pauses for effect.

“So Paul Simson wins his first-ever CGA event and now has set so many records they’ll never be broken — never be broken.” (Ed. note: Actually, Simson won his first of 27 CGA championships with the 1990 Carolinas Mid-Am. But the point remains: It’s a record that is safe for some time.)

Three days later, Maginnes paid his entry fee to play on the now-defunct Coastal Carolina Tour, won his first professional event, and left with a check for \$1,800.

“I thought I was the richest guy on the planet,” he says. “I put it right back into the next tournament. It was a ‘kill-what-you-eat’ existence for the next several years.”

Maginnes got his PGA Tour playing privileges in 1996, and in 1997 he was a new tour regular along with a skinny young star named Tiger Woods. Maginnes was paired with Woods in the B.C. Open in 1997 when Woods hit a tee shot into the



woods. The ball bounced out, and he was left with 270 yards to the green.

“Tiger pulled an iron out, and I figured he was going to lay up,” Maginnes says. “He hit a shot that made a different sound than anything I’d ever heard from a golf club striking a ball. The ball took off and rose and rose and rose, and just about the time I thought it was going to fall out of the sky, it rose again. It flew to the middle of the green and rolled to the back fringe.

“I was dumbfounded. At that moment, I realized everything I’d ever done in my life was in vain because I was never going to be able to hit a shot like that.”

A New Path

Maginnes was the consummate “journeyman” player on the tour for nearly a decade. He played in 198 PGA Tour events, won nearly \$1.5 million, and had eight top-10 finishes. He also won three mini-tour events. After an elbow injury sidelined him in 2004, he picked up some part-time work as an on-course commentator for USA Network. By the time he returned to the tour for the 2005 schedule, he had lost significant distance and understood his days as a competitive pro golfer were numbered. That’s

when opportunities to christen a golf-centric talk show dubbed *Maginnes on Tap* and to cover PGA Tour events on satellite radio evolved.

Maginnes is outspoken, opinionated, freewheeling, knowledgeable, and energetic. His daily talk show on Sirius-XM from 5-7 p.m. weekdays is appropriately named. It’s as if you’re bellying up to the bar, quaffing a cold one, and talking one-on-one with him about topics including Tiger Woods, the USGA’s anchoring ban, and the favorites to win the Opens at Pinehurst.

“My listener is a guy stuck in traffic in the Lincoln Tunnel, a guy stuck bumper-to-bumper on 285 in Atlanta,” Maginnes says. “My job is to get them home in a better mood than (when) they left the office. If they want to get yelled at, they can listen to Colin Cowherd or somebody else. Nobody else on the radio will be able to talk about golf like I can.

“I’m not as funny as David Feherty, not as jaded as most. I just want to be a small part of their day. The response has been overwhelming. It’s fun.”

➤ **Lee Pace** writes about golf from his Chapel Hill home and is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf* magazine.

Returning Gentility to Golf

WOODEN CLUBS AND PERIOD ATTIRE MARK HICKORY STICKS COMPETITION

/ written by CRAIG DISTL

What possesses a group of two dozen men to don knickers, ivy caps, Oxford shirts, and neckties for an 18-hole golf tournament on a warm July day, **passing over graphite technology and titanium clubheads in favor of ancient clubs connected to wooden shafts carved from hickory trees?**

Jay Mickle pondered both questions last July 12. Standing outside the golf shop at Asheville's historic Grove Park Inn, he had just come off a round in the inaugural Hickory Sticks Competition. The tourney was organized last summer to celebrate the inn's 100-year anniversary.

Mickle said his compadres travel the Carolinas with hickory-shafted clubs to replicate the game in its original form. Devotees of classic golf, they're also fans of old-school courses designed by masters like Donald Ross, Grove Park architect of record.

But the question about dressing in period attire — especially on a humid day — perplexes him a bit.

"Even 40 years ago, you had to wear long pants to play on a golf course," he says. "It's a gentlemanly sport, and I guess we're trying to add a little gentility to the sport once again."

So it was with such admirable intent that members of the Carolinas Hickory Golf Association — augmented by a few Grove Park members — strode to the first tee on a midsummer day for an 18-hole trip back in time. Argyle knee socks were again in fashion as the gents traversed the layout with implements known as niblicks, mashies, spades, spoons, and brassies. A distinctive "thwaap" could be heard as iron heads propelled by hickory shafts launched low-trajectory shots. Taking it one step farther, several participants walked the course.

"Even their stand bags have wooden legs," says Grove Park Inn Sales Manager Sam Dawkins. "It's refreshing to see."

It was also, Dawkins says, the perfect way for Grove Park golf to celebrate the inn's century in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"We were doing things in every other area of the hotel," he



Mike Henderson
Pinehurst, N.C.



The Rev. Richard Payne
Kernersville, N.C.



Jay Mickle
Southern Pines, N.C.



> Clockwise, from top: Karl Nagy of Simpsonville, S.C.; the Rev. Richard Payne, left, of Kernersville, N.C., and Dr. Joe Whisnant of Rocky Mt., N.C.; and Bill Engelson of Pinehurst, N.C., play at Grove Park Inn.

says. “We wanted to make sure golf wasn’t left out.”

Such days bring a smile to the face of golf architect Kris Spence of Greensboro. Specializing in restoring Donald Ross courses, he appreciates wooden-shafted clubs and how they reveal the true character of a course like Grove Park’s, which he restored to its Ross roots in 2002. Spence spends a lot of time educating modern-day golfers that Ross intended par to be a desirable score on every hole. With hickory-shafted clubs, that becomes more evident.

“All these courses when played with hickory clubs, it brings into play the strategies that were originally envisioned,” Mickle says. “A lot of that is lost nowadays. You take a Rocket Ballz (driver) and hit it out there 275 yards and you’ve changed all the angles that were originally intended, and the bunkering is no longer relevant. The width is not relevant.

“I think so often we just hit it as far as we can and wedge it into the green. This is a whole different game. You play a lot of ground game. We don’t play as many aerial assaults

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 “I PICTURE MYSELF AS THE CUSTODIAN OF THESE CLUBS. I DON’T OWN THEM. I’D LOVE TO HAVE THEM SPEAK TO ME AND SAY WHERE THEY’VE BEEN AND WHO’S PLAYED WITH THEM.”
 – Bill Engelson,
Carolinas Hickory Golf Association

on the greens because the balls don’t spin as well, and most of the old courses were meant for a ground game.”

Mike Henderson of Pinehurst looked as if he’d played hickory shafts all of his life. A gray derby shaded a handlebar mustache, with his tie tucked nicely into a dress shirt. His plus-fours were ironed and creased.

A few years ago, the 62-year-old bought hickory clubs on eBay and convinced his son to join him for an old-fashioned round. It’s now his favorite way to play.

“Skill is brought back into the game,” he says. “Distance and power are relegated to a lesser degree.”

When it comes to hickories, Henderson has clubs, clubs, and more clubs. Since the association uses the rules of golf from the early 1900s, members are allowed to carry as many clubs as they wish.

So Henderson has cleeks and niblicks, flange niblicks, jiggers, and bulldog spoons. He’s spent more than \$3,000 on hickory clubs and buys only originals — forgoing the official replicas permitted by the association.

But most people comment on his attire. “When I retired, I said, ‘I will never wear a tie again.’ Now I’m playing golf in a tie,” Henderson says. “It’s a hoot.”

The Carolinas Hickory Golf Association has 100 paid members and 225 more registered to have access to its website. It’s an inclusive group, always in search of converts willing to tee it up with hickory shafts.

Based in Pinehurst, the association was founded in 2005, says captain Bill Engelson. There is at least one golf event each month, as well as periodic road trips.

The hickory sticks guys consider themselves the keepers of something sacred: the traditional game of golf. In an era dominated by technology, they’re devoted to a simpler time and place.

Engelson, also known as “Lang Willie,” tries to explain how they become so attached to such antiquated equipment, but the answer isn’t rooted in words.

“Hit a ball with a hickory club and then you’ll know,” he says. “It’s a feeling that can’t be described.”

As head guru of the CHGA, Engelson searched for nearly a decade to find the perfect set of hickories. He finally chose a set crafted in the 1920s by clubmaker William Gibson of Scotland.

Engelson speaks with reverence about his hickory clubs and where they’ve been. Sometimes, he wishes they could talk.

“I picture myself as the custodian of these clubs. I don’t own them. I’d love to have them speak to me and say where they’ve been and who’s played with them,” Engelson says. “I took them back to Scotland two years ago, played 16 different courses. They loved being there, and I loved being there with them.”

> Craig Distl writes from North Carolina.

WILL THERE BE COLD DAMAGE ON Turfgrasses Come Spring?

written by / LEON T. LUCAS, CGA AGRONOMIST

In early January, we felt arctic chills with single-digit lows and even lower wind chill numbers. About two weeks before that, we enjoyed record-breaking warm weather.



If this kind of roller-coaster weather ride is hard on your body, consider the grasses on your golf course. The low temperatures can damage warm season grasses like bermudagrass, as well as cool season varieties such as bentgrass and *Poa annua*. None of these grasses like wild temperature changes either, making them more susceptible to damage.

Thirty and 40 years ago, we suffered more and longer-lasting deep freezes that completely killed bermudagrasses on many Carolinas courses. Four-inch ice on ponds and soil frozen to 6 inches deep was not uncommon. That weather led many to seek alternatives to bermudagrass, which was common on push-up soil.

Further, the short grass on putting greens is more susceptible to cold damage than the taller grass on fairways and roughs. Historically, this led course superintendents to overseed greens with bentgrass, which in turn could stand the summer heat into July and August.

And many greens were converted to bentgrass on the native soil. Still other greens were rebuilt and new courses were constructed with USGA specifications and planted with improved bentgrass varieties.

Bentgrass provided the best-quality putting surfaces at the time. However, the grass was not cut very short — often left as tall as 3/16 inch. Then, golfers wanted faster putting speeds, resulting in grass being mowed to about 1/8 inch. The combination of lower mowing heights and hot weather resulted in a decline of bentgrass.

Newer bermudagrasses were introduced in the early 1990s and yielded excellent putting surfaces. The winter weather has been mild in the last decade, and bermudagrass has survived well.

We have made nearly a complete circle in about 30 years from bermudagrass greens to bentgrass and now, back to bermudagrass. Weather will determine the future of bermudagrass or bentgrass on greens in the central and eastern parts of the Carolinas.

Superintendents all understand that they must cover the bermudagrass on greens when temperatures will be in the low 20s or lower. Covers also can prevent frost and cold stress on bentgrass. The covers keep temperatures higher and prevent desiccation.

Desiccation of grass during cold, dry, and windy spells has been

the primary cause of winter damage on grasses in the Carolinas. The problem usually occurs on greens that are in open and high areas. Damage from low temperatures occurs more often on greens and fairways that are in areas with winter shade created by large trees. Removing such trees will help improve grasses in those areas.

Using covers can be tricky. They must be removed when conditions are sunny and warmer to prevent high temperatures that might make bermudagrass grow prematurely. This grass is more susceptible to cold damage if it starts growing out of winter dormancy.

It takes a lot of time for turf maintenance staff to pull covers on and off greens. The extra work is similar to the extra effort required in the summer to “hand water” bentgrass in hot, dry weather.

There is no perfect grass for all seasons because of the variations in temperatures and conditions. Still, we have many excellent courses because of the hard work of superintendents and their staffs.

Keeping grass moist during cold weather, provided that irrigation works, helps to prevent damage from desiccation. Too much water should not be applied in cold because ice can cause crown hydration. This is often a problem in northern states where ice remains on greens for a long time. Desiccation during cold and windy weather can cause serious damage on bentgrass and *Poa annua* in the mountains of the Carolinas when there is not any snow cover.

The weather determines how well bermudagrass survives a winter and how much heat stress bentgrass will have in the summer. One new variety on the market that could help prevent cold damage on bermudagrass is a new zoysiagrass that should be more cold tolerant. While it has been planted on a few courses here, we need time to determine if this will be the “new” grass in the Carolinas.

We will have to wait until spring to determine if cold weather caused serious damage this winter. Meanwhile, superintendents are doing all they can (or can afford to do) to help ensure golfers will have the best turf possible when weather is favorable for playing golf again.

> **Leon T. Lucas** is the Carolinas Golf Association’s agronomist.

Some clubs **opting** for bentgrass

/ written by MICHAEL DANN

Green committees and superintendents are looking more and more like prairie pups: heads up and necks stretched. Which club has the best greens in July? In January? Should we keep bentgrass greens? Go to bermudagrass?

In his column in this issue, Dr. Leon Lucas refers to a zone in the central part of the Carolinas where both types of grasses are right and wrong, based on the time of year. A handful of clubs in that zone have renovated their courses in the last half dozen years and have stuck with bentgrass greens, bucking the bermudagrass trend.

“Our decision (in 2012) was based on three factors,” says Jason Harris, director of golf at Treyburn Country Club in northern Durham. “First was location. We are four or five degrees cooler than Raleigh or Durham. We are too far north.

“Second, our green complexes require a lot of forced carries. The firmness of bermudagrass greens would make hitting those targets more difficult.

“Third, we looked at our membership demographics. Our members can’t put a lot of spin on the ball, making approach shots more difficult if greens are too firm.”

Treyburn turned to a newer kind of Crenshaw bentgrass, 96-2.

“We are very happy with it in the summer, and we don’t have to worry about it in the winter,” Harris says. The greens now have a summer speed that is 1.5 to 2 feet faster than the Penncross greens that previously graced the putting surfaces.

“In fact, we cut or roll our greens every day in the summer — or do both.”

Highland Country Club in the heart of

the summer heat belt in Fayetteville surprised everyone when it resurfaced its green in 2013 with the same 96-2 grass.

“It was a membership decision,” notes Jens Klemsche, head golf professional. “They wanted bentgrass on the greens because it holds better. But they also figured they get one more month of top performance per year from a new bentgrass rather than from a new bermudagrass.”

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“WE JUST FIGURE THERE IS NO BULLETPROOF ANSWER TO PUTTING GREEN GRASSES.”

—Jens Klemsche, *Highland Country Club*

In 2011, Highland experimented by converting the green on the 17th hole to a bermudagrass. The members didn’t like it.

“We just figure there is no bulletproof answer to putting green grasses,” Klemsche says.

Old Town Club in Winston-Salem, proud of its 74-year-old Perry Maxwell layout, finished a large renovation project in 2013 with the highly touted Bill Coore-Ben Crenshaw team and retained bentgrass, a combination of A-1 and A-4, with some Crenshaw as well.

“It came down to the architects’ choice,” says superintendent O’Neil Crouch. “We all agreed that going with faster and firm grass negated some of our hole locations, and that was not right for us.”

The club also noted that they live with about six weeks of stressed grass in the summertime: softer, slower, and a little mushy.

“But that’s better than a half year of dormant grass,” notes Jim Holt, head golf professional. Old Town Club, all agreed, is in the northern part of the zone described by Dr. Lucas.

Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte finished its renovations in 2008, a year or two before the big move to bermudagrass greens.

“We looked at it, but decided then to stay with A-1 and A-4,” says golf professional David Rucker. “Then and now, our greens are good most of the year. We may have to baby them a month out of the year, but that is a trade-out with the covering and uncovering the greens with blankets in the wintertime.”

However, Myers Park has not ruled out a change at a later time.

In Pinehurst, National Golf Club finished its green renovations in 2012 and covered them with A-1 and A-4 bentgrass. It was a decision by course architect and renovator Jack Nicklaus.

“Bermudagrass just wouldn’t work with our undulating and tiered greens,” says National’s head golf professional Tom Parsons. “Our greens need to be receptive to shots. We could not accomplish that with the bermudagrasses.”

Parsons also notes that they have maintained healthy greens in each of the last two summers.

2014 CGA Championship Schedule*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
6th Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	12/30-31	Sara Bae, Miller Capps
CGA Island Four-Ball Getaway	Casa de Campo Resort	2/26-28	
20th Tar Heel Cup Matches	CC of North Carolina (Cardinal), Pinehurst, N.C.	3/24-25	
34th Carolinas Mid-Amateur	The Reserve GC, Pawleys Island, S.C.	4/4-6	
37th Carolinas Club Championship	Sedgefield CC (Ross), Greensboro, N.C.	4/7	
11th NC Women's Senior	Cedarwood CC, Charlotte, N.C.	4/15-16	
46th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	River Run CC, Davidson, N.C.	4/15-17	
9th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/3-4	
63rd Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/7-11	
29th NC Senior Amateur	Kinston CC, Kinston, N.C.	5/13-15	
88th Women's Carolinas Amateur	Wachesaw Plantation Club, Murrells Inlet, S.C.	5/20-22	
42nd SC Amateur Match Play	Seabrook Island Club (Ocean Winds), S.C.	6/4-8	
54th NC Amateur	Carolina GC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/5-8	
47th NC Junior Boys	Roaring Gap Club, Roaring Gap, N.C.	6/17-20	
18th NC Junior Girls	Starmount Forest CC, Greensboro, N.C.	6/24-27	
48th Twin States Junior Girls	Columbia CC (Ridgewood-Tall Pines), Blythewood, S.C.	7/1-2	
17th Carolinas Women's Match Play	Cowans Ford Country Club, Stanley, N.C.	7/8-10	
SC Junior Match Play (37th Boys, 14th Girls)	CC of Newberry, Newberry, S.C.	7/8-11	
100th Carolinas Amateur	Greenville CC (Chanticleer), Greenville, S.C.	7/10-13	
8th Carolinas Girls 15 and Under	CC of Whispering Pines (Pines), Whispering Pines, N.C.	7/14-15	
18th NC Boys 13 & Under Championship	Asheboro GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/14-15	
58th Carolinas-Virginias Women's Team Matches	Porters Neck CC, Wilmington, N.C.	7/14-16	
9th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	7/21	
6th Carolinas Super Senior	High Meadows G&CC, Roaring Gap, N.C.	7/21-22	
17th Carolinas Parent-Child	Seven Lakes CC, Seven Lakes, N.C.	7/25	
48th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst, N.C., area courses	7/25	
13th Mid-Atlantic Junior Girls Team Matches	The Clubs at Olde Mill, Laurel Forks, Va.	7/26-27	
58th Carolinas Junior Girls Match Play	Hope Valley CC, Durham, N.C.	7/29-31	
65th Carolinas Junior (Boys)	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	7/29-31	
5th NC Amateur Match Play	River Landing (Landing), Wallace, N.C.	7/30-8/3	
10th Dogwood State Junior Championship (Boys, Girls)	Sapona Ridge CC, Lexington, N.C.	8/5-7	
37th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Dataw Island Club (Cotton Dike), Dataw Island, S.C.	8/11-12	
14th NC Senior Four-Ball	Greenville CC, Greenville, N.C.	8/12-14	
32nd Carolinas-Virginias Junior Matches (Boys)	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	8/16-17	
9th Carolinas Mixed Team	St. James Plantation (Players), Southport, N.C.	8/30-31	
21st NC Mid-Amateur	Old Chatham GC, Durham, N.C.	9/19-21	
53rd Carolinas Senior Amateur	Sedgefield CC (Dye), Greensboro, N.C.	9/24-26	
7th NC Super Senior	Cape Fear CC, Wilmington, N.C.	9/29-30	
19th NC Four-Ball	North Ridge CC (Lakes), Raleigh, N.C.	10/3-5	
16th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur	Governors Club (Lakes-Foothills), Chapel Hill, N.C.	10/7-8	
69th Captain's Putter Matches (Carolinas-Virginias)	Club at Creighton Farms, Aldie, Va.	10/17-18	
3rd Carolinas Super Senior Four-Ball	River Hills CC, Lake Wylie, S.C.	10/15-16	
Carolinas Interclub Finals	TBA	November	
4th Carolinas Net Amateur	Pinehurst Resort & CC (No. 3), Pinehurst, N.C.	11/22-23	

* Updates on 2014 CGA qualifying sites, schedules for CGA one-day and senior four-ball events, and more are on carolinasp.org

Destination: Santee-Cooper Country

COURSES, ACCOMMODATIONS CREATE
A HAVEN FOR GOLFERS / written by BOB GILLESPIE

To many if not most, golf vacations in South Carolina mean heading for the coast. Indeed, Myrtle Beach, Charleston, and Hilton Head Island all have a variety of courses and price points.

But golf in the Palmetto State hardly ends there.

How about a vacation destination where you can find 17 courses, more than a dozen accommodation choices, family-oriented dining and entertainment options — not to mention stay-and-play packages as low as \$55 a day?

Welcome to Santee-Cooper Country.

About 45 minutes southeast of Columbia, about the same distance from Charleston, and accessible via Interstate 95 and I-26, the area surrounding Lakes Marion and Moultrie offers affordable golf, hotels/villas, and restaurants within minutes of each other.

Start with the town of Santee, at Exit 98 off I-95. The newest of its three courses, Santee National, is a bit northwest on U.S. 6 and features rolling hills, moss-draped oaks, and water on nine holes. Recent improvements include reshaped bunkers and Champion bermudagrass greens, plus Sky Caddie GPS availability.

Architect George Cobb designed Santee Cooper Country Club in 1967, making it the oldest of the three courses. Pine forests border Cobb's trademark dogleg holes, with elevation changes and bunkering being the main challenges. The 18th hole features sweeping views of Lake Marion.

Built in 1978, Lake Marion Golf Course is

visible from I-95 and, like its nearby Santee Cooper CC sister, boasts pine trees, sweeping terrain changes and Mini Verde bermudagrass greens, along with a lighted driving range. Within walking distance are both Lake Marion Golf Villas and, nearby, the North Shore at Lake Marion.

Just a couple of I-95 exits northeast of Santee are Wyboo Golf Club and The Players Club at Wyboo, both eight miles south of Manning. Wyboo GC is a signature design by Greenville's Tom Jackson, whose resume includes The Cliffs at Glassy (Greenville) and Mount Vintage (North Augusta). On-site villas are available for both locations.

With a dozen other package courses around the area, players will never need to repeat a course during the same stay. There are also a half-dozen chain motels (Best Western, Comfort Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn, and Quality Inn among them), offering accommodations to satisfy any budget.

No need to figure all of that out yourself, though. Information on golf-and-motel



packages to suit anyone's taste and wallet can be found online at www.santeecoopergolf.com or www.golfsantee.com.

While there's no seashore in Santee, it has everything else a golfer could want.

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

Why You Have the Yips



AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THEM

/ written by WAYNE WATTS / illustration by KEVIN FALES

The missed short putt. It happens when your putting stroke is replaced by a spastic twitch that is impossible to duplicate under normal circumstances.

The yips — along with the shanks — are golf's black deaths. You know when you've got 'em and can't control it. You feel it coming as you ready yourself over the ball.

The good news is there is both a cause and a cure for the yips. Maxwell Maltz, M.D., author of *Psycho-Cybernetics* (1960), termed the condition "purpose tremors." He found two causes: trying too hard and involuntary muscular reaction.

All too often we think we are bad putters. Why? Because we draw on our past experiences missing and not making putts.

When good putters miss a putt, no matter how short, they tell themselves, "I missed that putt." Poor putters miss it and say, "I'm a bad putter." That becomes their mindset and self-image.

So how do you fix it? There's only one way: Change your self-image, mindset, and habits. The brain can't tell the difference between an actual experience and an imagined one. So use your creative imagination. Visualize yourself making putts, in every detail, under the most intense pressure.

To do this, change your practice habits. Begin with a 1-foot putt. Make it. Then make it again. Make 10 in a row. Then 50 in a row.

You're going to make these putts — you won't miss one so short. Your subconscious

doesn't know whether the putt is 1 foot or 50 feet. All it knows is that you make putts!

It gains understanding that its one and only job is to make putts, and it pulls your self-image up with it. You come to believe you're a good putter. And, in fact, you are — at least from a foot, and with practice, from longer distances, too.

You also need to practice lag putting — putts of 20 feet and longer. Studies show that amateurs three-putt 267 percent more than tour pros. What to do? First, know the odds. Shotlink statistics tell us that from 20 feet, PGA Tour players miss five out of six putts. Worse yet, they three-putt 2 percent of the time from that distance. Why should you expect to do any better?

So, ease up on yourself — at all distances. Visualize your putt going into the hole. Trust yourself and your ability. Don't pressure yourself to make the clutch putt — just make your stroke.

Develop a don't-care attitude: The putt

will either go in or it won't. Who cares if you miss? Everybody does. It's called golf!

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Debunking the Myths

TOP 10 MISINTERPRETED RULES OF GOLF

/ written by RUSTY HARDER / illustration by KEVIN FALES

You've been there before, sitting at the 19th hole when a *Rules of Golf* question comes up. **You might hear a variety of answers, swear you have heard them all before, and they all sound right.** Arguments ensue, and everyone leaves thinking they know the answer to the *Rules of Golf* that, when discussed at the 19th hole, can ignite arguments not heard since the Hatfields & McCoys. Below are my Top 10 Myths from the *Rules of Golf*, debunked for you now.

» 10. The rules permit the use of rangefinders during play.

The rules permit the committee in charge to implement a local rule allowing the use of rangefinders that measure distance ONLY. Without a local rule, Rule 14-3 specifically prohibits the use of distance-measuring devices. The penalty is disqualification if such a device is used without a local rule in effect. In all CGA events, the local rule permitting the use of rangefinders is in effect. However, in USGA qualifiers, the local rule never is in effect.

» 9. You must inform your opponent in match play or fellow competitor in stroke play before you start a hole with a different ball.

Rule 1-1 requires only that a player play a ball from the teeing ground. Nothing prohibits a player from substituting balls between the play of two holes.

» 8. Whatever brand and type of ball you use to begin your round, you must use that same brand and type of ball for the entire round.

The only time a player is required to use the same brand of ball for an entire round is when the "One Ball" Local Rule is in effect. The CGA does not implement the "One Ball" rule in any championships or one-day tournaments. However, in USGA qualifiers, the "One Ball" rule always is in effect.

» 7. You cannot play a provisional ball if your ball might be lost in a water hazard,

even if it might be lost somewhere outside a water hazard.

As long as the player thinks his original ball may be lost anywhere outside a water hazard, he has the right to play a second ball provisionally under Rule 27-2. Even if the original ball might be in a water hazard, he is entitled to play a provisional ball if the ball also could be lost outside the hazard. If the player subsequently finds the ball in the hazard, he must abandon the provisional ball and proceed under Rule 26.

» 6. It is against the rules to have the flagstick attended for a stroke played from off the putting green.

Rule 17-1 says a player may have the flagstick attended, removed, or held up prior to making a stroke from anywhere on the course.

» 5. After your next stroke in match play has been conceded, if you putt and miss instead of picking it up, the concession is nullified.

In match play, Rule 2-4 says a "concession may not be declined or withdrawn." A concession is binding and permanent. Your next stroke is automatically considered holed, no matter what's done with the ball from that point.

» 4. If you declare your ball lost, it is lost even if someone finds it in five minutes.

A ball isn't lost until one of five conditions is met. (You can read any Rule of Golf or Decision by going to www.usga.org/Rules; the five conditions can be found in the

definitions.) Simply declaring verbally that the ball is lost isn't one of them.

» 3. If you run out of golf balls during a round, you may not borrow or buy more balls from another player.

There is no rule to prohibit a player from borrowing golf balls. In fact, Decision 5-1/5 expressly permits it.

» 2. When a ball is replaced on the putting green, it isn't back in play until the ball marker is removed.

The ball is back in play as soon as it's replaced, whether the coin or marker is still there. We've seen professional golfers leave a marker in place, then return to rotate the ball. This is to get the aiming line just right and is permissible. But if the ball is blown away from the marker after having been replaced, it must be played from its new position. (For more on this point, see Page 10 item on Michael Dingus.)



"Can I buy some of your golf balls?"

» 1. If a person other than the player marks and lifts a player's ball on the putting green, the person who lifted it must replace it. The player is penalized if anyone else replaces the ball.

Rule 20-3 identifies three different people who can replace a player's ball: the player, his partner, or the person who lifted or moved it. If any other person replaces the ball, the player would be subject to penalty if he does not correct the error.

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