

CarolinasGolf



Spring 2015

carolinasgolf.org

A GAME FOR ALL AGES

- › TYGA TOTS HELPS LAUNCH A LIFETIME LOVE OF GOLF
- › 97-YEAR-OLD GEORGE WILLIAMS, A SAMPSON COUNTY LEGEND

PLUS

- **PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**
CAROLINAS' BEST FOR 2014
- **A SECOND CHANCE**
FINDING HAPPINESS —
ON AND OFF THE COURSE

12 It's Never Too Early

Until recently, many junior golf and TYGA programs were geared toward middle- and high school-age players. Last year, the Carolinas Golf Association created **TYGA Tots** — a series of nine-hole tournaments for ages 6 to 11.

> FEATURES

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New program aims to get younger kids playing golf.

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ON THE COVER

Getting young children on the course is the goal of TYGA Tots. David Hinton III and son Noah Hinton of Garner, N.C., participated in the inaugural TYGA event at Asheboro Municipal GC. *Photo by John Gessner.*

> The Tarheel Youth Golf Association's new Tots program will be expanded in 2015. Shown here: Participants in an Oct. 25, 2014, Tots event at Asheboro Municipal GC in Asheboro, N.C.



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to a New Year of CGA Golf!

/ by G. JACKSON HUGHES, President, Carolin's Golf Association

› The last three years have been some of the most dynamic in the CGA's 105-year history. Much of it, but not all, was positive.

In 2012, we converted 730 Carolin's clubs to the GHIN handicap system. Aside from a few bumps, we are encouraged. The USGA



is backing GHIN with millions for product development; the future should be exciting.

The sudden passing of Michael Dann last July was devastating. We are still recovering from losing this great friend and loyal staffer. Also, our agronomist of 17 years, Dr. Leon Lucas, and office manager of nine years, Johnnie Gebhardt, retired. Both will be missed.

On Sept. 29, 2014, we moved into our new Carolin's Golf House. We thank all who helped make it happen (settingthecourse.org).

You may have noticed our new magazine cover design. Blue plaid debuted with our inaugural Reunion tournament in 2012. Now it is part of our branding. When you see blue plaid, we want you to think CGA.

Looking to the future of our 105-year-old association with our 730 member clubs and 150,000 individuals gives me a good opportunity to mention what we do for our member clubs.

- The CGA spent more than \$900,000 at CGA member clubs in 2014. This does not include dollars players and spectators spend on lodging, dining, etc. while at our events. We are proud of our economic impact!
- We host our events ONLY at CGA member clubs.
- Our golfing members can choose just about any level of golf they want. We will conduct over 240 events at our member clubs in 2015.
- We offer a weekend/holiday Rules of Golf Pager service for our member clubs to help resolve those tense rules moments.
- Course rating and measuring are free to CGA member clubs.
- An agronomy visit from our agronomist Bill Anderson will save your club \$1,500 if you are a CGA member. (See the article on Page 22.)
- Our Foundation continues to support amateur and junior golf growth.
- We are proud to work alongside the Carolin's PGA, Carolin's Golf Course Superintendents, the Carolin's Club Managers, and so many other organizations for the betterment of all of our programs.
- Through GHIN, we are networked with 47 states and seven countries/territories representing more than 2.3 million golfers!

Here are services we expect to improve and/or add in 2015:

- Saturday qualifiers are set for the Carolin's Mid-Amateur, NC Amateur, NC Amateur Match Play, Carolin's Amateur, and NC Mid-Amateur for the convenience of golfers who work during the week.
 - The Carolin's Father-Son and Parent-Child have moved earlier, to July 24 to avoid a conflict with the U.S. Kids World Championship.
 - We will add more Women's-only One-Day Tournaments and increase our communications to our women members.
 - We created a new One-Day Tournament (for both genders) using the Stableford scoring format at Tobacco Road in August.
 - We will continue to expand the TYGA Tots tournament program.
- Thank you for making golf in the Carolin's the best in the country!
Sincerely,
Jackson Hughes

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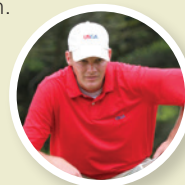
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News & Events

› Harvey Wins South American Amateur

Scott Harvey, 36, of Greensboro, N.C., won the South American Amateur Championship Jan. 22-25 at the Lima Golf Club in Peru. The USGA sent Harvey, by virtue of his 2014 U.S. Mid-Amateur win, along with three others, to represent the U.S. The win means Harvey, who had never played outside of the U.S., will travel to Slovakia in August for the elite European Amateur. Before then, Harvey has another prestigious golf event on his schedule: the Masters Tournament at Augusta National April 9-12. *(See related article on Page 16.)*



Scott Harvey



› Cardinal Amateur to Continue

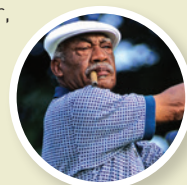
One of the nation's most storied golf events, The Cardinal Amateur, will continue this summer at Sedgefield Country Club's Pete Dye Course in Greensboro, N.C. Following a December announcement by the Cardinal Am committee that the tournament would end, Sedgefield Country Club owner McConnell Golf announced it would run the event with assistance from former Cardinal Am committee and Sedgefield CC members. The tournament has seen participation by some of the best amateurs in the world — many of whom went on to achieve professional success. Scott Harvey is the defending champion.

› Passing of Kent Hungerpiller Jr.

John Kenton "Kent" Hungerpiller Jr., 68, died suddenly on Jan. 23, 2015, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. One of his greatest passions, second to his family, was golf. Kent served on the South Carolina Golf Association's Executive Board starting in 2001 and was elected to a two-year term as president. Kent also helped to start The Players Junior Championship Tournament in Hartsville 15 years ago.

› Golf's Jackie Robinson Leaves Legacy

Dr. Charles L. 'Charlie' Sifford, who broke the color barrier as the first PGA Tour member, died Feb. 3 at 92. The Charlotte, N.C., native is often called golf's Jackie Robinson. An eventual two-time PGA Tour winner, he was prohibited from playing at some tour stops, and galleries were not always kind to him. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in December and is a member of the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame.



Charles L. "Charlie" Sifford

› Welcome new and returning CGA member clubs:

Brook Valley Country Club, Greenville, N.C.
Vineyard Golf at White Lake, Elizabethtown, N.C.
Highland Creek Golf Club, Charlotte, N.C.
Waterford Golf Club, Rock Hill, S.C.
Crown Park Golf Club, Longs, S.C.
Cypress Creek Golf Links, Laurinburg, N.C.
Twin Lakes Golf Course, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Men's Golf Club of Del Webb, Simpsonville, S.C.

› USGA Names Dunes for 2017

The Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., has been selected by the USGA to host the 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship, set for May 27-31, 2017. It will be the 17th USGA championship contest in South Carolina. The Palmetto State will also host the 2015 U.S. Junior Amateur at Colleton River Plantation Club (Pete Dye Course), in Bluffton.

› Certification, Licensing Deadlines

Golf clubs offering handicaps that have not gone through required licensing and certification procedures since 2012 will need to complete the process by the end of this year. The USGA requires all clubs offering USGA-licensed handicaps to their golfers to be certified every four years. The current cycle ends Dec. 31, 2015.

For certification, a club representative must successfully complete a handicap seminar. Once someone at the club has passed the test, CGA forwards a licensing agreement to be signed. When that's completed, CGA notifies the USGA that the club is licensed for the 2016-19 cycle. For information, call the CGA at (910) 673-1000.

› McConnell Adds a Club

In the months since *Carolinas Golf* featured McConnell Golf Founder and CEO John McConnell in its winter issue, his company has acquired another golf club. McConnell Golf has acquired The Country Club of Asheville, the Tar Heel State's oldest private club.

RECOGNITION, AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

› N.C. All-State Golf Teams

Sixty junior golfers from around North Carolina have been named to the 2014 N.C. Boys' and Girls' All-State Golf Teams.

The girls' first team is led by **Gina Kim** of Chapel Hill, the 2014 N.C. Junior Girls' Player of the Year. A high school freshman, Kim won the Ballantyne Junior Girls' Open in February, was the medalist in the USGA US Junior Girls' qualifying in June, and won the NCHSAA 3A central regional this past October. Also named to the first team are **Catherine Ashworth** of Fuquay-Varina, **Jennifer Chang** of Cary, **Holly McCann** of Raleigh, **Emilia Migliaccio** of Cary, **Anna Redding** of Concord, **Siranon Shoomee** of Sanford, Carolinas Golf Association Junior Girls' Player of the Year **Jessica Spicer** of Bahama, her twin sister **Sarah**, and **Grace Yatawara** of Salisbury.

The boys' first team is led by **Josh Martin** of Pinehurst, the 2014 N.C. Junior Boys' Player of the Year. A high school senior, Martin won the Men's N.C. Amateur Championship, becoming its youngest champion of N.C.'s most prestigious amateur tournament. Also named to the first team are Carolinas Golf Association Junior Player of the Year **Eric Bae** of Pinehurst, **Bryce Hendrix** of Greenville, **Nicholas Lyerly** of Salisbury, **Doc Redman** of Raleigh, **Davis Richards** of China Grove, **Henry Shimp** of Charlotte, **Alex Smalley** of Wake Forest, **Patrick Stephenson** of Four Oaks, and **Thomas Walsh** of High Point.

› Carolinas PGA rates high

The Carolinas PGA was named one of eight PGA Junior League Golf Regional PGA Sections of the Year by PGA of America and League Golf for its successful 2014 season.



The Spicer sisters

› Award Winners in the Carolinas

Carolinas PGA section 2014 award winners have been announced as follows.

Golf Professional of the Year – **Jeff Nichols**, Carmel CC
 Golf Assistant Professional of the Year – **Matt Bova**, Haig Point Club
 Teacher of the Year – **Tim Cooke**, Sea Pines Resort
 Bill Strausbaugh Award – **Reid Hill**, Wilson CC
 Horton Smith Award – **Paige Cribb**, Coastal Carolina University PGM Program
 Youth Player Development Award – **Matthew Reagan**, iGrow Golf-Buies Creek
 Player Development Award – **Jay King**, Hendersonville CC
 Merchandisers of the Year – **Jeff Dotson**, CC of North Carolina

(private); **Marc Guertin**, Caledonia Golf & Fish Club (public); and **Bart Romano**, True Blue Plantation (resort)

› Junior Players of the Year

The Tarheel Youth Golf Association has named **Gina Kim** of Chapel Hill and **Joshua Martin** of Pinehurst as 2014 N.C. Junior Players of the Year.

› Instructors Recognized

Carolinas recipients listed among U.S. Kids Golf's Top 50 Kids Teachers Award winners include: **Fred Bond** of Monroe, N.C., **Brandon Ray** of Mount Pleasant, S.C., and **Maggie Simons** of Charlotte, N.C.

› Carolinas Courses Among Greatest

Golf Digest recently released its 2015-16 list of America's Greatest Golf Courses. Ranking at No. 20 is The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, S.C. Wade Hampton GC in Cashiers, N.C., came in at 21. Pinehurst Resort No. 2 ranked at 28. New to this year's top 100 is Yeamans Hall Club in Charleston, S.C., at 64. The Mountaintop Golf & Lake Club in Cashiers is at 78. Eagle Point GC in Wilmington, N.C. is at

89. Diamond Creek GC in Banner Elk, N.C., is at 94.

> Green Friday a Success

The Carolinas Golf Foundation and The Tufts Archives held a fundraiser on Pinehurst No. 2 in November, raising more than \$30,000. The Archives preserves and displays

the history of Pinehurst, N.C.

The CGF supports amateur and junior golf. The

event also honored the late Michael H. Dann.

> CGA License Plates Available in N.C.

Special CGA license plates are now available online from the NC DMV. Plates cost \$30 annually; \$20 from each fee goes to the Carolinas Golf Foundation. Get your plate and show your support of Carolinas golf!



CHAMPIONSHIPS & TOURNAMENTS

> CGA Staff Championship

Tom Johnson of Winston-Salem, N.C., won the 2014 CGA staff championship. The event was renamed "The Dann Cup" this year in memory of 22-year employee **Michael Dann**, who passed away in July.

> CGA Members: Represent Your Club

The Carolinas Interclub gives players the opportunity to use their Handicap Index to represent their club in team competition.

Teams of 12 from a member club join a "pod" of three other member clubs to play

in six regular-season matches against one another. Males with a USGA Handicap Index



The Carolinas Interclub

of 18.4 or less are eligible; two pros from each club can compete, too. Sign up to play by March 31 at carolinasgolf.org.

> Young Amateur Winners

Kelli Murphy of Elgin, S.C., and **Austin Morriston** of Charlotte, N.C., won their divisions in the 7th Carolinas Young Amateur at Pinewild CC in Pinehurst, N.C., Dec. 30.

> Net Amateur Winners

Winners of the 4th Carolinas Net Amateur Championship hosted by Pinehurst Resort and Country Club (Course No. 3) were: **Dan Pearce**, Hampstead, N.C., overall Men's Division; **Nicole Feaster**, Durham, N.C., overall Women's Division; **Chris Chambers**, Fayetteville, N.C., Senior Men's; **Betty Reynolds**, Fort Mill, S.C., Senior Women's; **Mitch Jordan**, Myrtle Beach, S.C., Super Senior Men's; **Barbara Cleghorn**, Surfside Beach, S.C., Super Senior Women's.

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CGA ANNOUNCES 2014 CGAcers HOLE-in-ONE CLUB

More than 250 members submitted applications to the CGAcers club for holes-in-one in 2014.

The longest ace made was a 256-yarder on April 5 by **Mark Greene** of Mount Pleasant, S.C. at the Rivertowne Country Club in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Greene used a driver on hole #6.

The shortest ace was a 71-yard pitching wedge shot made by **Jeannie Rosberg** from North Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Oct. 30 at Black Bear Golf Club, Longs, S.C., on the 3rd hole.

Members of St. James Plantation in Southport, N.C., reported the most holes-in-one for 2014 with 33 and Moss Creek Golf Club in Hilton Head Island, S.C., was second with 15.

Milestones

Significant accomplishments were reported by two CGA members:

- **Warren Pardue**, a longtime member of Pinehurst Resort, Pinehurst, N.C., recorded his 10th hole-in-one on Dec. 2 on Course No. 7. Warren used his 7-iron to cover the 100 yards to the 5th green.
- Warren is 94 and plays golf two to three times a week. Shooting a score under his age is a common occurrence. Having a single-digit handicap for most of his golf career makes it all look easy.
- **Fred Sprouse**, a member at the Rolling S Golf Course in Waterloo, S.C., recorded his 8th hole-in-one by acing two on the same day, Sept. 19. One was on the 7th hole of 105 yards using a pitching wedge and the second was on the 3rd hole of 104 yards using a 7 iron.

Fred has played golf since 1962, but even at 76 years old, he is still achieving things for the first time in his life. He had another hole-in-one on Aug. 15 on the 3rd hole, 107 yards, using an 8 iron.

A Rare Feat

Ten golfers recorded two Holes-In-One in the same calendar year.

- **Thomas Carmany** (Summerville, S.C.) – March 23 (Hole 15 – 138 Yards – 4 Hybrid) and Dec. 31 (Hole 11 – 145 Yards – 4 Hybrid) — both at Summerville Country Club in Summerville, S.C.
- **John Crouse** (Aiken, S.C.) – Aug. 31 (Hole 3 – 170 yards – 2 Hybrid) and Oct. 26 (Hole 4 – 122 Yards – 9 Iron) — both at Woodside Plantation Country Club in Aiken, S.C.
- **Katherine DeVore** (High Point, N.C.) – Aug. 22 (Hole 6 – 121 Yards – 9 Iron) at Colonial Country Club in Thomasville, N.C., and Sept. 16 (Hole 3 – 93 Yards – 50 Degree Wedge) at the High Point Country Club in High Point, N.C.
- **Billie Ellwanger** (Calabash, N.C.) – Sept. 1 (Hole 15 – 114 Yards – 8 Iron) at Farmstead Golf Links in Calabash and Sept. 4 (Hole 8 – 112 Yards – 9 Iron) at the Members Club at St. James Plantation, Southport, N.C.
- **William Emerson** (Vass, N.C.) – June 17 (Hole 4 – 160 Yards – 6 Iron) on the Maples Course at Woodlake Country Club in Vass, N.C., and July 26 (Hole 6 – 140 Yards – 8 Iron) on the Palmer Course at Woodlake Country Club.
- **Roy Eubanks** (Pittsboro, N.C.) – Oct. 12 (Hole 14 – 106 Yards – 9 Iron) and Nov. 7 (Hole 2 – 158 Yards – 4 Iron) – both at the Sanford Golf Club in Sanford, N.C.
- **Clyde Gould** (Manning, S.C.) – April 23 (Hole 4 – 125 Yards – 6 Iron) and April 28 (Hole 16 – 119 Yards – 7 Iron) – both at The Players Course at Wyboo in Manning, S.C.
- **James Sanden** (Southport, N.C.) – March 24 (Hole 3 – 154 Yards – 5 Rescue) at the Founders Club at St. James Plantation in Southport, N.C., and June 25 (Hole 13 – 162 Yards – 6 Iron) at the Reserve Club at St. James Plantation.
- **Linda Strohenger** (Seven Lakes, NC) – May 26 (Hole 7 – 121 Yards – 5 Hybrid) and May 30 (Hole 16 – 118 Yards – 5 Wood) – both at Seven Lakes Country Club in Seven Lakes, N.C.

- **Charles Theo** (Woodruff, S.C.) – April 22 (Hole 11 – 124 Yards – 9 Iron) and May 25 (Hole 11 – 127 Yards – 8 Iron) – both at Three Pines Country Club in Woodruff, S.C.

Couple of Acers

One married couple celebrated with each spouse making an ace in 2014:

- **Christine Shevchik** – May 17 (Hole 17 – 100 Yards – 6 Wood) at Lakewood Country Club in Salemburg, N.C., and **Ronald Shevchik** – June 8 (Hole 16 – 162 Yards – 5 Iron) at the Reserve Club at St. James Plantation in Southport, N.C. The couple resides in Southport, N.C.

Top Score Posters in the Carolinas

Following are the Top 10 Carolinas golfers who posted the most rounds of golf in 2014. Each is listed by name, golf club, and number of scores posted.

Tom O'Halloran, GC at Wescott Plantation, 321

Ben Shoaf, Burlingame CC/CC of Spartanburg, 321

Rob Sheldon, Foxfire Resort, 316

Jerry Berndt, Dolphin Head GC, 305

Quentin Yarborough, Palms Course at Oakdale, 300

Dennis Visich, Berkeley Hall Club, 296

Leonard Potvin, Summerville CC, 292

David Peters, Belfair GC, 291

Tom Knight, Belfair GC, 288

Skip Bornhuetter, Colleton River Plantation, 280

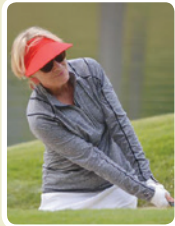
The Carolinas Golf Foundation will hold a Per Round Pledge fundraising drive for 2015. Each participating golfer pledges an amount they wish to donate per golf round posted this year (1/1/15-12/31/15).

The CGA will track rounds posted using clubs' handicap software and contact golfers for payment at the conclusion of the season. The golfer with the top pledge-amount donated will receive tickets to a 2016 PGA Tour Event. Visit carolinascgolf.org/per-round-pledge.

FACES IN THE CROWD

The CGA asks:
What is your golf goal for 2015?

Therese St. Peter, Durham, N.C.



Fitness, focus, and fun. Extend the warranty on my body through practice of golf-specific regular exercise: strengthening,

stretching, walk when playing; test myself through tournament play; cherish every play day with friends.

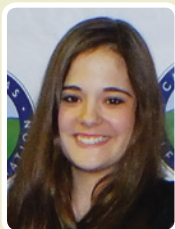
Jim Grainger, Charlotte, N.C.

To be on the WINNING Carolinas team in the Captain's Putter Matches!



Jessica Spicer, Bahama, N.C.

I want to work even harder on my game than I have in the past, and I want to continue to improve at the game I love.



Madison Moosa, Charlotte, N.C.

To have the best mental and physical preparation possible in order to take my game to another level, by becoming a Top 50 nationally ranked player.



If you would like to be included to share your opinion on future questions for *Faces in the Crowd*, contact us by emailing to media@carolinascgolf.org.

BUNKERS, POWER LINES, AND SWING SETS

The CGA tournament staff spotlights some tricky rules scenarios golfers may encounter on the course. Submit your Rules of Golf questions to rules@carolinascgolf.org to be featured in upcoming issues.



Q. I hit my ball into a bunker and it buried in the sand. We could not find the ball, so we began to use a rake to look for it. Once we found my ball, we replaced it and recreated its original position. I could not play it from the buried lie. I wanted to take a ball unplayable penalty. May I drop it outside the bunker?

A. Yes. Under Rule 28, the player may proceed under three options. Option A would be to drop a ball as close as possible to the spot from which the original was last played. This is the only option to be able to play from outside the bunker. The other two options, B and C, require that a ball must be dropped within the bunker (see Rule 28).

Q. My tee shot was clearly heading out of bounds when it struck an elevated power line overhanging the boundary fence. The course has the "Power Line" local rule in effect on that hole. I am still required to

cancel and replay the stroke without penalty. True or False?

A. True. It's your lucky day. Even though your ball might have been heading out of bounds since the "Power Line" Local Rule under Decision 33-8/13 was in effect on that hole, you must cancel the stroke and replay without penalty no matter where the power line is situated.

Q. My ball is in bounds, but there is a swing set on a lawn that is out of bounds interfering with my intended stance and swing. Shouldn't I get relief from the swing set (immovable obstruction)?

A. Unfortunately, no. Immovable artificial objects out of bounds or off the course are not obstructions by definition. Therefore, you would not be entitled to relief without penalty. You must either play the ball as it lies or proceed with your options for an unplayable ball.

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Celebrating the Opening of Carolinas Golf House

An important milestone in organization's history

The Carolinas Golf Association has come a long way from the times when the home for its members was literally the home of one of its members.

"It was founded in 1909, and through the '50s, it was managed in people's houses," says CGA President Jackson Hughes.

According to Hughes, through the next 40 years, the CGA relocated its operations to various courses in North Carolina. It was headquartered in West End from 1991 until Sept. 29, 2014. On that day, the CGA moved into the Carolinas Golf House in Southern Pines, adjacent to the conference center of the Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club.

The official grand opening took place Saturday, Jan. 31, in conjunction with the CGA's annual meeting and Golf Night, which honors the association's past year's champions and Players of the Year.

Hughes says the new, 13,000-square-foot building signifies the organization's growth; the building in West End offered only 4,200 square feet.

"We had people on top of people on top of people," Hughes says. "We'll be much more efficient. We'll have all of our supplies — all the things you need to run a golf tournament — there and not off site like they used to be."

There's also space dedicated for a museum in the new building. The CGA has collected historical items

suitable to be displayed, but Hughes says the organization has not yet finalized plans for the gallery.

"Golf has been an important part of the two Carolinas," Hughes says. "We have a great history of golf. This is a building we can all be proud of."

"It'll take care of our growth for a long time."

From left, Charlie Lynch, CGA general counsel; Gene Spencer, CGA secretary; Daniel O'Connell, CGA treasurer; Jack Nance, CGA executive director; Jackson Hughes, CGA president; David McNeill, Southern Pines mayor; Richard Dosek, CGA immediate past-president; Lawrence Hicks, CGA vice president; Kelly Miller, CGA Executive Committee member and Pine Needles CEO.



Carolinas Golf Association President Jackson Hughes (left) and Southern Pines Mayor David McNeill speak during grand opening ceremonies for the new Carolinas Golf House.

VOLUNTEER AS A CGA RULES OFFICIAL

*By Andy Priest
CGA Assistant Executive
Director*

If you have participated in a CGA competition, then you have most likely interacted with our volunteer rules officials.



The CGA tournament department is fortunate to have more than 150 volunteers assisting at 240-plus competitions each year.

Volunteers are the backbone of our tournament program. With our ever-growing tournament schedule, the CGA is always looking for new people who are willing to donate their time by giving back to this great game.

If you are interested in becoming a CGA volunteer rules official, additional information is available at carolinasgolf.org/rules-officials.



Shown working as rules officials (top) and starters, volunteers are the backbone of the CGA tournament program.

Golf, Sleep, Golf, Sleep.
Repeat as often as necessary.



When you awaken each morning in the Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen Area of North Carolina, 43 courses will beckon. Many of our courses have achieved international acclaim. All will challenge your best game and fill your days with the kind of invigorating relaxation unique to the sport. Each night, you will retire knowing that tomorrow is another tee time. Though many would dispute the notion that man does not live by golf alone, we do offer up other forms of sustenance in the form of quiet pubs, vibrant sports bars and renowned restaurants featuring menus from tappas and sushi to North Carolina home cooking. And that, as most golfers will agree, is the perfect prescription for the ideal golf trip.

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› Fifteen young players competed in a TYGA Tots One-Day event held in the fall of 2015 at Asheboro Municipal Golf Course in North Carolina. At the season-ending TYGA Toys for Tots Holiday Shootout hosted at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C., participation was at more than 100.

Never Too Early

TYGA TOTS GETS 6- TO 11-YEAR-OLDS ON THE COURSE

/ written by LEE PACE / photography by JOHN GESSNER

The Monday before Christmas dawned gray and cold, and the **golf course at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C., was soggy from a weekend of rain** — hardly ideal conditions for a round of golf.

Yet more than 100 junior golfers convened for the season-ending TYGA Toys for Tots Holiday Shootout. And 33 of them were in the Tots Division — a competition category created in the fall of 2014 for ages 6 to 11.

They sloshed through water and kept hitting shots even when the comfort of their hand warmers wore off. They downed 20 gallons of hot chocolate and still, most kept smiling.

“The parents said if we had called it off, there would have been some upset kids,” says Chris Zeh, the CGA’s associate junior golf director. “They were ready and excited to play.”

One player took out his phone and checked his weather app. He noted it was 38 degrees, but that with the wind chill factor, it felt like 32.

“And he had a smile on his face when he said it,” says Matt Massei, general manager at Prestonwood. “They kept on playing through the weather. Not one player did not finish. It was a testament to how much they wanted to play. It was fun to watch.”

Opportunities for Younger Players

Over the last couple of years, CGA Director of Junior Golf Jason Cox realized that junior golf and TYGA programs were geared toward middle- and high-school-age players. So last year they created this series of nine-hole tournaments for the Tots that will be expanded in 2015.

Along with the holiday event in Cary, tournaments were held in October at Bradford Creek Golf Club in Greenville, N.C., and Asheboro Municipi-

pal Golf Course. Seven tournaments are on the calendar for 2015 with the possibility that a couple more could be added.

Scoring is done on a modified Stableford system of 6 points for eagle, 5 for birdie, 4 for par, 3 for bogey, 2 for double bogey, and 1 for triple bogey or more. The Stableford system falls under the *Rules of Golf* and allows a player who takes a high score — “We have all gotten caught in a bunker and wasted three or four shots,” Zeh says — to take the one point given for a triple bogey or more without ruining his or her round.

“We want them to play within the *Rules of Golf* but not get discouraged with one bad hole,” Zeh says.

The youngsters play nine holes in three age divisions (6-7, 8-9, and 10-11) and from three sets of tees; a par 5 for the youngest players might run 175 to 200 yards, and for the older players, 350 yards or so. The tournaments are open to boys and girls, and if enough girls enter, separate age divisions are created for them.

Entry fees are \$20, which covers green fees, range balls, trophies, tee gifts, and tournament administration. Parents can pay a cart fee if they want to ride and follow their children.

“The major problem in growing the game among kids is affordable access to golf courses,” says Cox. “We want to see kids on a golf course. The Tots program is a way to accomplish that. Twenty dollars is very reasonable.”

The National Golf Foundation released a participation report in 2010 indicating that the number of golfers age 6-17 dropped 24 percent to 2.9



million from 3.8 million between 2005 and 2008. Since then, nearly all of golf's governing and administrative bodies have launched initiatives to address junior participation.

A program that made quite a splash in the golf world in 2014 was the launch of the Drive, Chip, and Putt competition at Augusta National the weekend before the Masters. Another is the PGA Junior League, which provides team vs. team events in scramble formats and saw its growth leap from 150 players in 2011 to more than 18,000 in 2014.

"It's so important to provide a proper introduction to the sport at this young age," says Beth Major, the USGA's director of public services and the staffer in charge of the association's junior golf initiatives. "There are so many options a kid can do. Golf needs to be welcoming, and introducing kids early in their lives to the game is very important."

Massei says that it's critical to connect with kids before their teen years.

"The game of golf has to get kids engaged while they're young," he says. "By the time they turn 13, 14, and 15 and get to high school, they might have picked a sport. Kids don't play multiple sports as much these days — they'll pick soccer or baseball or tennis or whatever.

"You've missed an opportunity if you don't get them in that 6 to 11 range."

Just Do It

Mike Cato, head pro at Bradford Creek, began playing golf at a young age in Kinston. Though structured teaching environments have their place, he thinks there's nothing better than getting youngsters out on the course.

"The old style of having a golf camp and doing drills on the driving range and doing a putting contest doesn't work as well as just getting them out to play," Cato says. "It's very important for the growth of the game and the future of the golf business. Some of the other sports have done a better job of enticing kids to get involved. Golf needs to be more creative in attracting kids to the sport."

Two families who have embraced the Tots golf program are the Pates of Elizabethtown and the Klayners of Cary.

Chip Pate has played golf since he was able to swing a club. Now both of his sons are involved in the game. Eleven-year-old Henry and 9-year-old Bizzell have played in all three Tots events.

"My boys love to compete and have the chance to win a medal," he says. "One thing we like about these tournaments is the length of the

course works really well. Henry has a chance to make a birdie on a par 4 because they're not set up as long as some events we've played in.

"They would go to the golf course every day if they could. They love the game and are anxious to play in the next one. They were actually disappointed that there's not another Tots event until April."

Scott Klayner's daughter Blythe is 9 and has played in two Tots competitions.

"The scoring system is fantastic," Klayner says. "It makes it really fun for the kids. They can concentrate on shots rather than worrying about their score all the time."

Tournaments are laid-back enough to avoid putting too much pressure on the participants while offering the structure of a competitive environment, he adds.

"Blythe has made some good friends in the tournaments she's entered," Klayner says. "There are not a lot of girls her age playing golf. It's nice to make friends and see the same girls from one tournament to the next. She's already talking about the next one for 2015."

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

2014 Carolinas Players of the Year



IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR
FOR PLAYERS AT ALL LEVELS

/ written by TRENT BOUTS / illustrations by MATT LEBARRE

Scott Harvey was partway through a summer round at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro when he had the kind of thought that can haunt men of a certain age. At 36, he'd played a lot of golf — a lot of great golf, in fact, on a lot of great golf courses. But he had yet to play the one he wanted most of all. Clear as a bell, Harvey re-

A Brilliant Year

On the strength of that victory, Harvey all but knew he would be invited to play in the 2015 Masters Tournament. First, he received “paperwork” letting him know he was welcome to play the course in preparation. In November, he finally set foot on the fairways — “in awe,” he notes — he'd only walked as a spectator

Year for the fourth year running.

His high points in 2014 included playing for his country in the Concession Cup, winning the Cardinal Amateur, representing North Carolina in the USGA Men's State Team Championship, and representing the Carolinas against the Virginias in the Captain's Putter Match. He also tied for second in the N.C. Mid-Amateur and was named Southern Golf Association National Amateur of the Month in September.

In December, he was one of 16 players invited to practice for the 2015 Walker Cup squad. In January, he flew to Peru as one of four U.S. representatives in the South American Amateur Championship — and won.

“I remember watching Paul Simson collect one of his (three POY) awards at the awards dinner in 2008. I was close that year and as I was listening to him speak, I was thinking ‘Man, that'd be so cool. That'd be such an

calls telling himself: “Before I die, surely, I will know somebody who will invite me to play Augusta National.”

There comes a time when everyone realizes that dreams and opportunity are on the clock. The death of his father, Bill, the previous fall may have led Harvey there; maybe not.

Pondering if he would ever play Augusta National was hardly a midlife crisis, but within a matter of weeks he'd conjured a solution, winning the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship at Saucon Valley Golf Club in Bethlehem, Pa.

during practice rounds in 2011 and 2012. The experience was magical.

“Every part of it, every inch, is manicured perfectly,” he says. “The most striking thing to me was how different the course is when you are actually playing it. The fairway bunkers are way deeper than I thought. The elevation changes are even more dramatic than you realize. No. 10 is way, way downhill.”

Even though Harvey's Masters campaign was underway, his formal invitation didn't arrive in the mail until Christmas Eve. It made for the perfect close to another brilliant year for Harvey, who was named CGA Player of the

honor if I could ever do that,” Harvey says. “Fast forward to now and I've won four. It's crazy. I can't believe it.”

When Harvey secured a late-season victory to win his first Player of the Year award in 2011, his first phone call on the road home was to his father. Bill Harvey was one of the greatest amateurs the Carolinas has produced, with more than 300 tournament victories.

“He was so proud,” Harvey recalls.

Eye on USGA Gold

The 2014 Senior Player of the Year, Rick Cloninger from Fort Mill, S.C., is laying the ground-





work for his own string of titles. He also won the senior award in 2013.

Cloninger, 57, knows Simson is a “world-class amateur golfer” and puts “good friend” Harvey in the same category.

“I’m not quite there yet, but I may be close,” Cloninger says. “Though I doubt anyone will ever get near Paul’s record. That’s the thing about following on his heels. He’s set the bar so high that no matter what you achieve, you’re still going to be under it.”

His most notable performance in 2014 came when he played his way into the semifinals of the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship at Big Canyon Country Club in Newport Beach, Calif. He lost a tough match 3&1 to eventual champion Patrick Tallent of Virginia. That loss added at least one more year to Cloninger’s wait for something he covets most.

“The thing that’s missing is a gold medal at the USGA level,” he says. “Hopefully, next year I can go and take care of that.”

Cloninger, who hasn’t finished worse than sixth in three years of senior golf, is also broadening his tournament range this year by adding the Canadian and British senior amateurs to his schedule. That’s if his back holds up. He hurt himself moving furniture several years ago and the pain flares up now and then, as it did during the week of the Senior Amateur. Cloninger also endured a kidney stone in 2014.

“But I was able to get a lot out of the tournaments I was able to play,” he says.

Indeed, he won the 2014 South Carolina Golf Association Senior Championship and was second in the Carolinas Senior Amateur

Championship. Other top finishes included a tie for third as defending champion at Greenville Country Club’s Chanticleer Senior Invitational and a tie for sixth at the National Senior Hall of Fame.

Third Time’s a Charm

There were also repeat winners on the women’s side with Dawn Woodard of Greer, S.C., claiming her third consecutive Women’s Player of the Year award and Pat Brogden of Garner, N.C., winning her third Senior Women’s award in four years.

Woodard won the Women’s South Carolina Golf Association (WSCGA) Match Play Championship for the fifth time in a row and later won the WSCGA Stroke Play Championship. In CGA play, she tied for fifth at the Carolinas Women’s Amateur and advanced to the Round of 16 at the Carolinas Women’s Match Play.

She seemed destined for greater success qualifying as the second seed for the U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship. But that run ended when she lost in the Round of 64.

“I just didn’t play as well as I could that day and my opponent probably played as well as she could,” says Woodard, 40. “But that’s match play. It seemed like every decision I made on the first five or six holes didn’t go right and I dug myself into a hole I could never quite get out of.”

Woodard thinks improved consistency has contributed greatly to her current reign.

“I kind of wish I’d figured that out years ago,” she laughs.

Brogden, 60, might be celebrating four

Senior Women’s awards in a row if not for health issues in 2013. She won the title in 2011 and 2012, but some surgery and resulting complications severely impeded her game in 2013. While she says she was still getting her swing back in the groove last year, she managed to win her fourth Carolinas Women’s Senior title and the Women’s Eastern Senior Championship.

She was runner-up at the North Carolina Women’s Senior and third at the 2014 North and South Women’s Senior Amateur. She also made it to the round of 16 at the U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur, her second trip that deep into the national championship. Brogden accomplished all of this playing cross-handed.

“I can’t say I won as many tournaments as I would have liked, but I can’t complain about the year I had,” Brogden says.

Top Teens

Boys’ Player of the Year winner Eric Bae, 16, from Pinehurst, N.C., recorded three victories, but might have raised more eyebrows still during his second round of qualifying at the U.S. Junior Amateur. Bae shot a championship record 29 on his inward nine to earn his way into the match play rounds.

An eight-shot victory at the Carolinas Junior Girls’ Championship helped win the Girls’ Player of the Year award for Jessica Spicer, 17, from Bahama, N.C. It was her first CGA championship victory.

➤ **Trent Bouts** writes about the golf industry from Greenville, S.C.

Nine Decades Strong

GEORGE WILLIAMS NAMED TO SAMPSON COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME / written by **CRAIG DISTL**

Back in the decade known as the Roaring '20s, a young lad in Clinton, N.C., figured out he could earn money by caddying at the local golf course.

The youngest of nine children, this lad would hitch rides on the running boards of automobiles to spend his summer days on the links caddying for local gentlemen.

Thus began a love affair with the game of golf for George Thomas Williams that continues nearly nine decades later. These days, the 97-year-old can most likely be found playing golf at Clinton's Coharie Country Club (he's a founding member), or honing his putting skills on the practice green adjacent to the first tee and right beside his longtime residence. In fact, Williams, who carries a 12.8 handicap index, plays golf at least three times a week and does all the maintenance in his 1-acre yard.

And if he can't better his age every time he plays, he might just give up the game.

"I doubt if George can remember when he first shot his age, nor can he probably remember when he did not," says fellow Coharie Country Club member Bob Yow. "It has been such a common occurrence for so many years now."

Dickie Walters, head golf professional at Coharie, recalls a round he recently played with Williams.

"He shot 77 and was upset when he got done because he felt as though he left three or four shots out on the course where he could have done better," Walters says. "He's just really so competitive."

Impressive Record

That competitive fire has served Williams well throughout a lifetime of accomplish-

ments. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1939, was lieutenant commander of a Navy ship in the South Pacific in World War II, earned a law degree from UNC in 1948, was a successful lawyer in Clinton for many years, and raised a family with his wife, Linda (his first wife, Jane, died of cancer in 1970).

His devotion to family and career probably curtailed what could have been one of the top amateur golf careers in North Carolina history. He racked up lots of titles in local and regional championships, as well as in smaller Carolinas Golf Association tournaments.

In 31 club championships at Coharie from 1956 to 1987, he won 20 times. Williams also captured several regional titles in places like New Bern, Morehead City, and Jacksonville. He won the Jacksonville Invi-

tational at age 75 by edging out a golfer less than half his age.

On the larger stage, he competed in the Carolinas Amateur three times (1962, '63, and '67) and the Carolinas Senior Amateur twice (1968, '69), finishing third in the 1969 Carolinas Senior Amateur. He recorded perhaps his most impressive golfing feat in the 1963 Carolinas Am by defeating the legendary Billy Joe Patton in a middle-round match that year.

The event was held at Patton's home course, Mimosa Hills Country Club in Morganton, N.C. Patton was nationally known at that time. Nine years earlier, Patton came within a whisker of defeating Sam Snead and Ben Hogan in The Masters, which would have made Patton the only amateur to win the prestigious event at Augusta National.

"He is really proud of winning the match against Billy Joe Patton (on Patton's home course) and has said he considers that his single greatest accomplishment," Yow says.

Unassuming Golfer

The definition of humble, Williams rarely talks about his achievements. His son, Chip, and daughter, Venetia Mann, mostly know of his accomplishments by looking at trophies and plaques in the living room. The only reason Yow has the inside scoop is because he recently nominated Williams for induction into the Sampson County Sports Hall of Fame and needed a detailed biography as part of the nomination process.

Even when Williams was inducted in November 2014, he chose to put the focus on golf in Sampson County — not on himself.

"He took every bit of spotlight off himself and threw it back to golf being recognized in general," says Mann. "That's what it meant to him — golf was getting recognized."

We'll leave it to his head pro, Dickie Walters, to brag about Williams' golfing talents.

"George hits it right down the middle all the time. He doesn't hit it left or right, and when he gets a putter in his hands, he's going to make it most of the time," says Walters. "He's really good with his putter."

➤ **Craig Distl** writes from North Carolina.



Taking a Swing at a Second Chance

PARTIALLY PARALYZED GOLFER FINDS HAPPINESS OFF AND ON THE COURSE

/ written by CHRIS WALLACE / photographs by CHRIS DAILEY

On a typical Friday, an early afternoon visit to CGA member Summerville Country Club in Summerville, S.C., will find **participants in the “Morning Blitz” golf group** making their way to the bar after their regular rounds.

They’ll enjoy a beer, discuss good and bad shots, determine the day’s financial winners and losers, and exchange good-natured barbs.

Sitting among them, smiling, is Fred Gutierrez. Here, he’s just one of the guys. But Gutierrez is no ordinary guy — or golfer.

A Second Chance

In 1996, living in San Diego at the age of 40, Gutierrez decided that he was done with life. After a tumultuous childhood followed by personal and professional disappointments as an adult, Gutierrez had lost his will to live. He raised a gun to his temple and pulled the trigger.

Miraculously, the bullet was deflected and emerged from the top of his head. He was rushed to the hospital after a neighbor called 911, surviving following multiple blood transfusions, hours of surgery, and six days in a coma.

“God gave me a second chance,” he says. “It’s a gift ... I didn’t have to be here.”

Gutierrez was committed to making the most of his second chance, but there would be obstacles to overcome. His left arm was paralyzed. Years of painful, demanding physical therapy followed.

A move to South Carolina to be with family

helped the recovery process, as did his involvement in the Summerbrook Community Church.

A Turning Point

In 2008, Rich O’Brien wandered into Summerbrook one day seeking solace after an accident of his own. A former college golfer, coach, and golf professional, O’Brien was injured after being thrown from the back of a golf cart while caddying. He suffered skull and spinal fractures and was unsure if he would live — much less walk again.

But he did, on both counts. As his condition improved, his blossoming friendship with Gutierrez became life-changing for both of them.

“Fred was my inspiration that I could be functional,” O’Brien says. “And as I healed, I became his inspiration and he asked me if I could help him play golf.”

Gutierrez had gained weight and thought playing golf might help shed a few pounds. Golf became his passion. Despite being able to swing with just his right arm, his progress was rapid.

In January 2013, Gutierrez walked 36 holes in one day to raise money for charity and fired a then personal-best score of 85 during the first of his two rounds. Later that year, he



would break 80 for the first time, posting a round of 78.

His impressive play — he drives the ball 200-220 yards and maintains a handicap in the 18 range — can be attributed in part to a maniacal commitment to practice.

“If I don’t practice, I feel like I won’t be able to compete in the One-Armed World Championship,” he says. “I want to represent the United States. That’s my goal, and I don’t want to embarrass myself.”

For 575 consecutive days at one point, Gutierrez practiced for at least an hour.

“I still practice my chipping, but I don’t practice my putting in the house anymore because I drive my wife crazy,” Gutierrez says with a laugh.



› Opposite and here: Fred Gutierrez overcame a paralyzed arm to excel at — and make some close friends over — golf. Left center: Bob Merryman, Rich O'Brien, Rich Rankin, Gutierrez, and Bray Blanton. Bottom left: Rankin, Blanton, Merryman, and Gutierrez competed in the One-Armed Challenge.

One of the Guys

Along the way, Gutierrez found acceptance, thanks in large part to fellow Summerville member and Morning Blitz regular Darryl Solomon.

"I had seen Freddie around and one day I introduced myself," Solomon recalls. "He said, 'It looks like you guys have a lot of fun,' and I told him to come play with us."

Gutierrez cherishes the camaraderie and jokes that when he started winning his share of \$2 Nassaus, his playing competitors told him "we're going to take away your good arm."

For O'Brien, watching Gutierrez find happiness and friendship on and off the course has been heartwarming.

"To see his progress has been so fulfilling," O'Brien says. "I've been his mentor and his coach, but the biggest thing is being his friend."

"I owe him a debt of gratitude that I'll never be able to repay."

A Chance to Give Back

Given his success and newfound relationships, it's easy to see why Gutierrez loves the game. He has other motivations, however.

"Every step and every swing is to honor



"There's no future in the past, so always look forward."

God," Gutierrez says. "And being able to give back to my community is very important to me. I can do that through golf."

Having spent four years in the Navy in the late 1970s, Gutierrez enjoys raising money for fellow veterans. An organization called Folds of Honor holds a special place in his heart.

"It helps veterans and their families, and it helps their children move forward with education," Gutierrez said. "Education is everything ... I'm 59 now, and if I had known at 17 what I know now, my life would have been better."

Raising money for Folds of Honor was the inspiration for a One-Armed Challenge at Summerville Country Club on Dec. 8 that had Gutierrez square off against three local professionals.

The catch? Bob Merryman, Rich Rankin, and Bray Blanton also had to play using just one arm. Cold, rainy weather shortened the event to 13 holes, but Gutierrez defeated each pro handily. The trio's combined best ball was only able to nip Gutierrez 1-up.

"There was a lot of excitement and buzz about the event," O'Brien says.

Director of golf at Legend Oaks in Summerville, Merryman fared best against Gutierrez, finishing 2-down.

"I've always admired Fred's work ethic and dedication to the game," Merryman says. "He's done well, and he can get even better. He's just a really good guy who's really appreciative."

Gutierrez is also reflective.

"Everyone makes mistakes, but don't believe the negative that people throw at you," Gutierrez says. "Have faith in your ability and what you can do, and move forward by believing in yourself. There's no future in the past, so always look forward."

› **Chris Wallace** is a freelance sports writer and former college golfer and coach who lives in Pinehurst, N.C.

Agronomy Answers

TOP TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT / written by BILL ANDERSON, CGCS

Before you line up your first swing, check out this **10-point list of good things to know about the superintendent's management and maintenance** of the game's most valuable resource — the golf course.

- 1. Superintendents today are well-educated.** Most hold degrees in turfgrass science, with many also having advanced degrees. Continuing education is the norm; superintendents spend hours each year in classes and seminars on turfgrass science and golf course maintenance operations.
- 2. Know your superintendent's name, title, phone number, and email address.** Good communication early on will help you both with any issues that arise later.
- 3. The architecture, design, and size of each golf course affects maintenance expenses.** It is impossible to compare golf course budgets when there are so many differences in grasses, bunkers, trees, waterways, irrigation systems, infrastructures, locations, and sites.
- 4. Drainage is critical.** Most golfers don't know how important a good drainage system is to a functional golf course. Drainage provides drier conditions for playing golf and better conditions for growing turf.
- 5. Management of labor is difficult.** A high percentage of golf course maintenance staff are hourly workers. Superintendents must understand labor and immigration laws to be effective leaders of their team.

6. Things wear out. An ongoing capital improvement program is vital. Irrigation systems, bunkers, cart paths, and turfgrass must be repaired or replaced to keep the course current with golfers' expectations.

7. The future of the course is always on the superintendent's mind. As expectations for improved golf course conditions continue to grow, budgets are constricting or stagnant at best. That will lead many operators to change their maintenance and construction practices, meaning fewer bunkers and areas requiring upkeep. The new look of drier, less-manicured turf is growing in many areas.

8. Your golf course is environmentally responsible. The superintendent observes the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. Scientific research confirms that golf courses improve the surrounding environment.

9. Shade is our enemy. We must have sunlight to grow fine turfgrass. Sometimes the trees must go.

10. The weather controls everything.

➤ A former superintendent and lifelong golfer, **Bill Anderson** is the new Carolinas Golf Association agronomist.

What is an agronomist?

On Jan. 1, I became the Carolinas Golf Association's third agronomist, following Dr. Carl Blake and Dr. Leon Lucas. Beginning in 1982, the CGA followed the same model used by original county extension agents, sending their agronomist to golf courses to support and consult with superintendents on difficult turf questions.



While the need to solve agriculture problems still exists, new golf course challenges come with higher expectations, shrinking budgets, and instant emails. Your superintendent communicates both up and down the chain of command, keeping everyone informed about the golf course daily — all the while maintaining above-average golf course conditions.

In my new role, I look forward to maintaining the human connection envisioned by the extension agents, while sharing with your superintendents the technical and management expertise I gained from 40 years in the golf course business. I can be reached at bill.anderson@carolinasgolf.org.

—Bill Anderson

Get A HEAD Start on Solid Contact

USE YOUR NOGGIN WHEN IT COMES TO GOLF SWING

/ written by MEGAN PADUA / illustration by KEVIN FALES

The most common phrase used in golf is “Keep your head down.” It is also **the worst piece of advice that a golfer could ever give or listen to.** There is a difference between keeping your head down and keeping your head still during the golf swing.



Limit Your Lateral Head Movement

The head plays a very important role when making consistent contact, but this role can often be misinterpreted. When your head moves laterally, it can lead to many fat or thin shots — and in extreme cases, causing one to miss the ball entirely.

Many golfers create excessive lateral movement in an effort to hit the ball farther. Keeping the head in the same position during a swing will help you return the club to impact repetitively and with maximum power.

The Truth About Keeping Your Head Down

If you hit a lot of shots with poor contact, you

may be a master at keeping your head down. It may even be something you intentionally do because you were told to. You’ll never hear golf instructors say that you hit a poor shot because you lifted your head. If that were the case, they’d be out of a job. The “keep your head down” theory destroys golf swings more than it helps them.

Which technique would deliver more force if you were hitting a punching bag? A punch that extends from a bent to a straight arm position through impact, causing more force to be delivered? Or an arm that bends more and more through impact?

This bending of the arms is also referred

to as the dreaded “chicken wing.” When your head moves downward, your arms bend.

The real problem leading to poor contact is that your arms are shortening instead of extending through the golf shot. The head moving downward will force your arms to get shorter through your swing. If your focus is keeping your head down, you’re also the same golfer who struggles to get rid of the chicken wing effect.

If you start with your head in one position and it moves toward the ball, you have no choice but to bend your arms to make contact. If you don’t adjust your arms, you will extend them into the ground — a consequence that can have a painful end.

Here is a drill to limit your head movement during your swing:

Stand in front of a mirror in your golf setup. Instead of looking where the golf ball would be, look at your eyes in the mirror. Take a golf swing at a slower speed, keeping your focus on your eyes. Allow the golf club to find the bottom of the swing as it comes to the contact point.

When your head stays in the same position, you will be able to return the club to the same place every time. This drill will allow you to see if your head is moving too much laterally while

also improving your ability to keep your head steady — not down — during the swing.



➤ **Megan Padua** is a PGA-certified instructor and an LPGA member. She is a teaching professional at Balfair Plantation in Bluffton, S.C., and travels the country teaching the Aimpoint Express green reading method. Padua is a *Golf Digest* Top 40 Best Young Teacher, GRAA Top 50 Growth of the Game Teacher, and a U.S. Kids Golf Master kids teacher. Visit meganpaduagolf.com or email meganpadua@me.com.

The Beautiful Crystal Coast

GOLF, GOOD FOOD, AND FUN

/ written by ELSA BONSTEIN

The North Carolina Crystal Coast has great history, wonderful fishing, unique shopping, and terrific golf.

Driving through this area that stretches from the Cape Fear Lookout to the New River, one can understand why it is called “crystal.” The water in the inlets, rivers, and salt marshes glistens in the sun. The beaches are pure and white. The air is fresh.

Several CGA member golf courses dot the area, including Brandywine Bay in Morehead City, North River Club in Beaufort, and Star Hill Golf Club in Swansboro.

Star Hill was built in 1967, making it one of the oldest courses in the region. It has 27 pristine holes of golf with immaculate bentgrass greens. The course runs through hilly terrain with drainage that would be the envy of Augusta National.

Head Golf Professional Mickey (Mick) Brown has been at Star Hill for 20 years and loves his job.

“We are open year-round and never have the designation of cart path only, even on the wettest days,” Brown says. “We allow walkers year-round.”

The course prides itself on customer service and as soon as a car arrives, a staff member is there to put clubs into a cart. There is a restaurant/lounge for after-golf libations.

Star Hill is built on the site of a large meteor impact that occurred several thousand years ago. Early settlers heard stories from the Indians about a place where a star had fallen from the sky, hence its name.

For years, the legend persisted and finally as scientists studied the area, they discovered that a meteor had, in fact, crashed in that very location. The impact created a large pond and

bog next to the first hole of the Lakes Course (the other nines are called the Pines and Sands) at Star Hill.

Numerous pieces of ejecta, or chunks of melted sand and iron from the meteor impact, have been found strewn over a large area near the impact site. A specimen sits on a special shelf in the Star Hill clubhouse.

The nearby town of Swansboro is a fun place to stay or to visit when playing Star Hill. Founded in 1783, the town sits on the White Oak River near the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. The historical downtown area is directly on the river and has art galleries, restaurants, and shops, which feature jewelry, pottery, oil paintings, and other crafts by local artisans.

The Ice House Waterfront Restaurant sits on the water near the bridge and overlooks shrimp boats, docks, and the water. Menu items include Atlantic salmon, speckled trout, seafood cioppino, and shrimp.

Take a trip to North Carolina’s Crystal Coast. Play golf, go fishing, take a swim, walk the beach, and stroll the towns. Enjoy a delicious meal of local seafood at one of the many fine restaurants along this marvelous coastline. It all makes for a perfect Carolinas golf getaway.

➤ Freelancer **Elsa Bonstein** writes for the *Brunswick Beacon*. Her articles have appeared in the *Asbury Park Press*, *New Jersey Living*, *New Jersey Woman*, *Carolina Greens*, *Children’s Playmate*, and other publications. Her first novel is a thriller called *Find Edsell!*



➤ From top: Swansboro from the water; Meteor Pond on Hole No. 1 of Star Hill’s Lakes Course; bentgrass greens at Star Hill; and the view from Swansboro Bridge.

2015 CGA Championships & One-Day Tournaments*

DATE	EVENT	SITE	OPEN	CLOSE
CGA CHAMPIONSHIPS				
2/24-28	CGA Island Four-Ball Getaway	Casa de Campo Resort		
3/28-29	7th Jimmy Anderson Junior Boys Invitational	Jacksonville Country Club, Jacksonville, N.C.	1/12	3/18
4/6-7	21st Tar Heel Cup Matches	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	N/A	N/A
4/17-19	35th Carolinas Mid-Amateur	North Ridge Country Club (Lakes), Raleigh, N.C.	2/8	3/17
4/21-22	12th North Carolina Women's Senior Amateur	Starmount Forest Country Club, Greensboro, N.C.	2/12	4/14
4/27	38th Carolinas Club Championship	Sedgefield Country Club (Ross), Greensboro, N.C.	3/28	4/20
4/27-29	47th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	The Cliffs at Keowee Springs, Six Mile, S.C.	2/22	4/14
5/2-3	10th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls	Pine Island Country Club, Charlotte, N.C.	3/9	4/22
5/6-10	64th Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden Country Club, Camden, S.C.	3/1	4/21
5/12-14	30th NC Senior Amateur	Champion Hills Club, Hendersonville, N.C.	3/1	4/14
5/19-21	89th Carolinas Women's Amateur	Treyburn Country Club, Durham, N.C.	3/22	5/12
5/23-24	3rd Jimmy Creed Junior Boys Invitational	Camden Country Club, Camden, S.C.	4/7	5/14
ONE-DAY TOURNAMENTS				
3/23	Women's One-Day Fun-Day Four-Ball	Croasdaile Country Club, Durham, N.C.	2/15	3/17
3/28	One-Day	Foxfire Resort and Golf, Foxfire Village, N.C.	2/22	3/17
3/30	One-Day Four-Ball	Hasentree Club, Wake Forest, N.C.	2/22	3/17
4/6	One-Day Four-Ball	Old North State, New London, N.C.	3/1	3/24
4/15	One-Day Four-Ball	Lonnie Poole Golf Course, Raleigh, N.C.	3/8	3/31
4/18	One-Day	Scotch Hall Preserve, Merry Hill, N.C.	3/15	4/7
4/19	One-Day	Kilmarlic Golf Club, Powells Point, N.C.	3/15	4/7
4/20	One-Day Four-Ball	Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C.	3/15	4/7
4/27	One-Day Four-Ball	Falls Village Golf Club, Durham, N.C.	3/22	4/14
5/4	One-Day Four-Ball	Tanglewood Park (Championship), Clemmons, N.C.	3/29	4/21
5/5	Women's One-Day Four-Ball	Mid Pines Inn & Golf Club, Southern Pines, N.C.	3/29	4/28
5/16	One-Day	Lockwood Folly, Supply, N.C.	4/12	5/5
5/17	One-Day	Magnolia Greens Golf Course, Leland, N.C.	4/12	5/5
5/30	One-Day	Southern Pines Golf Club, Southern Pines, N.C.	4/26	5/19
SENIOR FOUR-BALL ONE-DAY TOURNAMENTS				
3/16	The Reserve Golf Club	Pawleys Island, S.C.	2/8	3/3
3/17	Founders Club at Pawleys Island	Pawleys Island, S.C.	2/8	3/3
3/30	The Members Club at WildeWood	Columbia, S.C.	2/22	3/17
3/31	Camden Country Club	Camden, S.C.	2/22	3/17
4/13	Catawba Country Club	Newton, N.C.	3/8	3/31
4/14	Mimosa Hills Golf & Country Club	Morganton, N.C.	3/8	3/31
4/23	High Point Country Club (Willow Creek)	High Point, N.C.	3/22	4/14
5/4	Pinewild Country Club (Holly)	Pinehurst, N.C.	3/29	4/21
5/18	Kenmure Country Club	Flat Rock, N.C.	4/12	5/5
5/19	Bright's Creek Golf Club	Mill Spring, N.C.	4/12	5/5

* This schedule reflects events through the end of May 2015. Updates on these events and more can be found at carolinascgolf.org.

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Ratings Essential for Handicapping

WANTED: A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO BE VOLUNTEER COURSE RATERS

/ written by GREG KELLY / illustration by KEVIN FALES

A common myth is that a golfer's handicap reflects how many strokes over par they score. Nope, uh-uh, no way — or **as my buddy from the Northeast would say, "Fuggedaboutit."**

The handicap more closely correlates to how many strokes the player will be over the USGA Course Rating™ of the tees they are playing, with the Slope Rating® factored in (when playing to their potential). The true foundation of the USGA Handicap System™ is accurate course and slope ratings.

Now having said that, to ensure the ongoing accuracy of handicaps, the USGA requires that courses be re-rated at least once every 10 years or any time structural modifications have been made. The CGA is responsible for rating golf

courses in North Carolina. With almost 600 courses in the state and ongoing renovations, that means we have to do about 75-80 course ratings per year.

Gulp, how do we manage that? With the help of dedicated and selfless volunteers! The CGA has a dozen teams of trained volunteers, but we need more! Uh-oh, did you see the "trained" part? One does not simply walk out and rate a course. Undaunted, you ask, "OK, so what's involved?"

First off, we'll provide you with a USGA

Course Rating System™ manual that tells you everything you always wanted to know about course ratings, but were afraid to ask. Read it, study it, sleep with it at night. Beyond that, the USGA provides online course rating lessons, including a workbook and quiz at the end. Finally, there is an annual "Calibration Seminar" to attend to ensure all raters are on the same page in producing their numbers.

And numbers are what it's all about. You don't actually calculate the ratings. That is done by the USGA's Course Rating Program™, but you do provide the raw data used for the calculations. Raw data? What raw data?

Well, while course ratings are largely determined by laser measured yardages done by the CGA, the USGA Course Rating System also looks at things such as elevation changes, roll, prevailing wind, and altitude, as well as doglegs and forced layups that can affect the "Effective Playing Length" of a course.

It also calls for the evaluation of 10 different "Obstacle Factors," such as fairway width, topography, green target, bunkers, water hazards, trees, out of bounds, green surface, and rough and recoverability. There is even a psychological intimidation factor incorporated! On each hole, each of these factors is assigned a value by the raters between 1 and 10 for both scratch and bogey golfers. That's a lot of numbers.

If we haven't scared you off yet, there is a pretty cool upside. One of the benefits of being a course rater is you get to play the courses you rate! Typically teams will gather all the rating data in the morning, eat lunch (provided by the club — another perk), and then play the course in the afternoon, both for fun and to gain more insight into the course in order to make any needed tweaks to the rating.

So, if you are interested in helping ensure that the handicaps of golfers throughout North Carolina are legitimate, love numbers, and want the opportunity to play some of the best courses in North Carolina, please contact Greg Kelly (greg.kelly@carolinagolf.org) to become a volunteer course rater.

➤ **Greg Kelly** is the CGA's managing director for handicapping, course rating, and GHIN.



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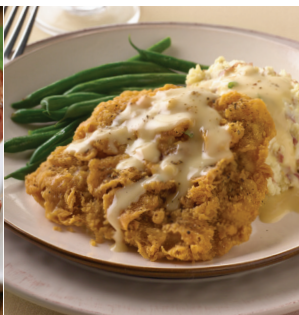
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