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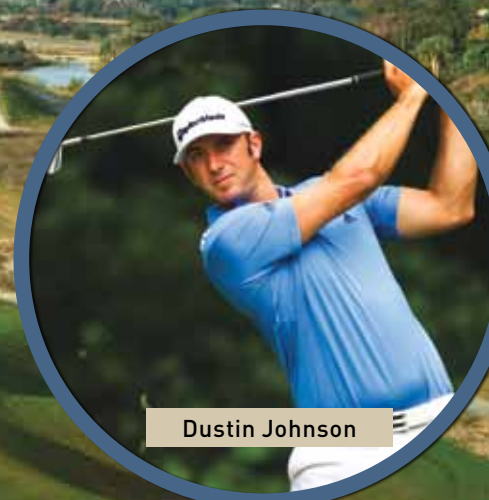
OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Summer 2012

COMING HOME

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RUMBLING BALD RESORT'S MOUNTAIN RETREAT
- **HEATING UP**
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The PGA Championship at The Ocean Course will feature prominent Carolinas natives. Photos courtesy of USGA, Getty Images, and the course.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Take Me Out to the ... Golf Course?

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

› It was April 2010. The new ballpark had just opened. It was a long time in coming, and its progress was not very smooth. There were fits and starts to the project over several years.

Winston-Salem baseball fans finally got what they had been waiting for: a brand-new, state-of-the-art field of dreams for their minor league team. It had arisen adjacent to the aging thoroughfare that bisected the city, and it was a sight to behold. In fact, later that summer, Baseballparks.com picked it as the ballpark of the year, edging out the Minnesota Twins new Target Field in Minneapolis.

I took in an early-season game and had just arrived at my seat when two men took the two seats to my right. We exchanged pleasantries and settled in to watch some baseball. I noticed both wearing logoed shirts. The logos were from golf courses.

After an inning or so, I asked if they played golf. Yes. In fact, they had just come from playing in a four-ball event. They had played a course with which I was reasonably familiar.

Now, it was on. They recounted much of the round — with most of the emphasis, of course, on the good shots. Not much on the bad. I followed along with their memory tour.

Their recall of the day's rounds was excellent. That did not surprise me much, though, because I have done the exact same thing countless times.

I've been asked more than once: "How can you remember what club you hit for your second shot on the third hole of your career round 27 years ago, but you can't remember what you had for breakfast this morning?" Or: "How can you remember a 9:32 starting time at the 10th tee and not remember the time of a doctor's appointment?"

The answer is easy. We just can. I don't know why we can. Maybe Dr. Bob Rotella knows why. But an ability to pull golf minutia out of the old memory bank and relive those moments seems to be a common characteristic of golfers.

Back to the baseball park conversation, which moved back and forth among the three of us as we described memorable golf exploits. Even though we recalled different courses, conditions, and times of our lives, we were consistently precise in our recollections.

As we chatted, I was reminded — maybe by a cheer — that there was a baseball game going on. That is one of the most endearing idiosyncrasies of our national pastime. You can go to the ballpark, engage someone in extended dialogue, and not miss much of the significant action down on the field.

The Winston-Salem Dash play about 70 home games each year between early April and early September. If you are in the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina, consider taking in a game. You might see a future major leaguer perform in our family-friendly ballpark. And if you are lucky, you might have a great golf experience, too.

By the way, the Dash won that night.



› Bald Head Island Renovation One of 2011's Best, Says *Links*

The renovation of the golf course at the Bald Head Island Club was one of the top five best renovations completed in America in 2011, according to *Links*. It placed the changes right behind the much-publicized renovation of Pinehurst No. 2, calling it a "phenomenal re-do."

The Bald Head Island Club course, which opened in 1974, was originally designed by George Cobb. Over the years, strong ocean winds, intense summer sun, and thousands of rounds of play had taken their toll. The CGA has held one championship on the layout.

Tim Cate was selected to revitalize the course. He maintained Cobb's classic style and routing while increasing the playability, widening fairways, modifying greens, adding elevation changes, and opening up more views of the ocean.

The renovation resulted in sweeping vistas of dunes and the ocean, lagoons come into play on 14 holes, and elevations change as much as 35 feet throughout the course. Some holes have 20-foot-high dunes as backdrops to their greens. The layout includes new tees re-grassed with Celebration bermudagrass, and large and undulating greens re-grassed with MiniVerde Ultradwarf bermudagrass.

For more information, call (910) 457-7300 or visit bhiclub.net.



› Shelton Winery



› Olde Beau, Hole No. 15

› Fairways and Chardonnays

The pairing of fairways and chardonnays (or cabernets) makes for a new North Carolina golf destination. The Yadkin Valley, about 45 minutes northwest of Winston-Salem, features more than 30 wineries and a number of highly regarded golf courses. Getaway packages combine golf, lodging, and winery visits.

"When people think of this area, they think of fine wines and lush vineyards, but really it's a great destination for golf, too," says Surry County tourism director Chris Knopf. In their first year, Yadkin Valley golf and wine getaways will be anchored by three courses: Cedarbrook CC in Elkin, Cross Creek CC in Mount Airy, and Olde Beau G&CC in Roaring Gap.

The idea behind this packaging is that traveling golfers and wine lovers are often one and the same. And even when they're not, those golfers may have a spouse or significant other who is a wine enthusiast.



› Cross Creek CC

Typical packages include lodging and daily golf, plus a voucher for a complimentary winery tour/tasting at a participating winery. A pass to the iconic Andy Griffith Museum in the actor's hometown of Mount Airy can be added for a nominal fee.

Packages start at \$305 per person, based on double occupancy. They include three rounds of golf (with cart), two nights lodging, a winery tour, gratuity, and tax. For information, call (855) 398-4653, or visit YadkinValleyGolf.com.

› Carolinas PGA Opens New Headquarters

The Carolinas PGA Section dedicated its new headquarters at Bryan Park Golf and Conference Center in Greensboro, N.C., in late April. The ceremony brought together many Carolinas and local government dignitaries, partners and members of the CPGA, and members of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation board of directors.

The Carolinas PGA Section was founded at Greensboro CC in 1923 and officially recognized as a section of The PGA of America in 1940. The CPGA had its headquarters in Greensboro and Durham until 1976, then moved to Myrtle Beach. When the Myrtle Beach property was recently sold, the CPGA board of directors decided to head "home" to Greensboro, and found a 3.1-acre parcel of land at the entrance to Bryan Park.



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MILESTONES

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

➤ East Carolina University senior **Harold Varner** (2011 NC Amateur match play and stroke play champion) and Clemson junior **Corbin Mills** (2010 Carolinas Four-Ball champion) were among the 28 collegiate men's golfers named to the watch list for the 2012 Ben Hogan Award. This is the most prestigious award in men's college golf and is presented annually to the top men's NCAA Division I, II or III, NAIA or NJCAA college golfer. Mills was among 10 semifinalists when the list was unveiled in April. The winner was announced in late May, prior to the start of the PGA Tour's Crowne Plaza Invitational.

➤ **Charles William "Bill" Sessums** died in March following a battle with cancer. He was a certified golf course superintendent for 43 years, including positions as the director of golf course maintenance, construction superintendent, and design consultant of Pinewild CC of Pinehurst, and director of golf course maintenance of Duke University GC. He was a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Sandhills Golf Course Superintendent's Association. His wife, Bonnie, is a former CGA employee.

➤ **Joseph Monroe Carter Cheves** died in April after a battle with cancer. He was 56. Born in Morganton, N.C., Cheves was an accomplished athlete, playing junior football and baseball. But his true sport was golf. He won three father/son tournaments with his dad, Joe Cheves, at Mimosa Hills CC, the first as a 10-year-old. In 1972, he won the Burke County Junior Golf Championship. A 1979 graduate of NC State University with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural engineering, he became course superintendent at Twin Valley CC in Wadesboro, N.C. He went on to write and learn all aspects of the publishing business with *The Wolfpacker*. He worked on the book, *Too Soon to Quit*, with Jim Valvano, and was an assistant sports information director at NC State University. He was also president of the American Golf Association, a company founded by his father to conduct senior golf tournaments. In 2003, he founded the Joe Cheves Junior Invitational.

FAST FACTS

23 Number of golf courses along the Grand Strand now owned or operated by National Golf Management (NGM)— the joint venture of Burroughs and Chapin Golf Management and Myrtle Beach National Co. Their inventory includes Pine Lakes CC, King's North at Myrtle Beach National, the Grande Dunes Resort Course, Pawleys Plantation G&CC, and Tidewater Plantation.



› Sedgefield CC to Unveil New Greens

When McConnell Golf purchased Greensboro's venerable Sedgefield CC in early 2011, its new owner recognized significant improvements would be necessary to restore the longtime host of the PGA Tour's Wyndham Championship to its former glory. Numerous upgrades were made prior to the 2011 Wyndham Championship. Now, Sedgefield will convert its green complexes to a more heat-resistant strain of bermudagrass. It will reopen prior to the Aug. 16-19 Wyndham Championship. Golf course architect Kris Spence will oversee the project.

Two-time Wyndham Championship winner and captain of the next U.S. Ryder Cup squad, Davis Love III, is pleased: "Changing the Sedgefield greens to bermudagrass is great news for the members at Sedgefield, but it's also great for the Wyndham. The new greens will allow the course to be played the way Donald Ross intended."

2011 Wyndham winner Webb Simpson agrees: "With bermuda greens, Sedgefield becomes one of the great golf courses on the PGA Tour. Even in the heat of August, the greens will be hard and fast, and that means the course will play much tougher."

Sedgefield has hosted 11 CGA championships and team matches.

› Green Valley CC Retains Course Designer Jan Bel Jan

Green Valley CC in Greenville, S.C., has retained Jan Bel Jan to complete a master plan and renovation of the par-72, 18-hole course. The first phase includes a short game practice area, a new practice range, the reshaping of holes No. 1 and No. 10, and strategic and aesthetic upgrades.

Named one of the top 10 most influential women in golf by *Sports Illustrated*, Bel Jan is one of only three women to earn full membership in the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). She worked with Tom Fazio for more than 20 years. She was elected into the ASGCA in 1990 and is a board member of the National Alliance for Accessible Golf. She also serves as an



adjunct professor at Hodges University in Naples, Fla., and is a managing member of the National Women's Golf Alliance, whose spokeswoman is Nancy Lopez.

Bel Jan will focus on making Green Valley more appealing to a broader audience, including women, seniors, and junior golfers, while retaining appeal for low-handicap players and long-hitters.

At the same time, a new fitness center is being completed, upgrades are being made to the clubhouse, a new outdoor dining area is being created, and new landscaping is being installed. A second phase of course improvements is scheduled for late fall 2012.

Originally designed in 1958 by George Cobb, Green Valley has hosted four CGA championships.

› Seminar Promotes CGA Member Clubs' Financial Health

The CGA and the Carolinas chapter of the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) sponsored a "Surviving in Down Times" seminar at Pine Island CC in Charlotte this spring. The event attracted nearly 40 golf professionals, club managers, and officers from a variety of clubs.

"The more we get together and share information, the better off we all are," says Bill Chandler, general manager of the Windermere Club in Blythewood, S.C.

Jeff Fleishman, president of Golf Business Advisors Virginia, talked about member retention and marketing. Russ Conde, president of Club Benchmarking, spoke about club data-sharing. Tom DeLozier, general manager of Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, discussed best practices for food and beverage operations.

"I learned that clubs that now are well-off got there by adding amenities," notes Danny Agapion, head professional at Cherokee National CC in Gaffney, S.C. "For example, clubs that added fitness centers 15 years ago — or even made a tie to an existing commercial fitness center — have an advantage."

Dan Dobson, head professional at Mimosa Hills GC in Morganton, N.C., added that times are tough for small, historic, private clubs. "We've already followed up with ideas from the seminar."

The CGA will be conducting more club seminars in the future.

› Old Tabby Links to be Restored

The award-winning Old Tabby Links golf course in Spring Island, S.C., will close for restoration. The project will be headed up by the course's original design firm, Arnold Palmer Design Co. It will include a new irrigation system and re-grassing the greens. The course should reopen for play by November 2012.

Opened in 1993, Old Tabby Links has been viewed as the crown jewel in the partnership between Arnold Palmer and his associate, Ed Seay. The venue hosted the 1994 CGA Mid-Amateur championship, which was won by Paul Simson.

The new putting surface will be MiniVerde bermudagrass. This will eliminate the need for annual over-seeding.



➤ **More Kudos for Cape Fear National**

Cape Fear National was named to *Golfweek* magazine's "Top 10 Best Courses You Can Play in NC — 2012." It's the most recent award for the Tim Cate design located south of Wilmington, N.C. It has also received:

- Top 10 Best New Courses 2010 — *Golf Magazine*
- Best New Courses of 2010 — *Links* magazine
- Best New Courses List 2010 — *Golfweek*
- Best Residential List, 2011 & 2012 — *Golfweek*
- Top 10 Best Courses You Can Play in NC, 2011— *Golfweek*.

➤ **Treyburn CC Opens After Renovation**

Following a nearly year-long renovation, Treyburn CC in Durham, N.C. celebrated the reopening of its refurbished Tom Fazio-designed golf course and expanded practice facility. The club wasted no time showing off the layout. It hosted the TYGA's 6th Annual North Carolina High School Invitational in April and will host the 52nd North Carolina Amateur Championship June 14-17.

Architect Kris Spence and his team replaced greens with heat-tolerant 96-2 bentgrass, and rebuilt greens to original specs, but with better drainage. Tree removal around several greens provides more sunlight and airflow. Bunkers have new drainage and white sand, and several bunkers were added for strategic purposes.

The practice facility also received a face-lift. The putting green has an additional 1,000 square feet of putting surface, plus expanded chipping and pitching area.

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Do Perfect Conditions Really Help Your Game?

/ written by **BY LEON T. LUCAS, CGA AGRONOMIST**

Golf course conditioning is important to most golfers, whether it's debated on course or in the grillroom. **We all want perfect turf conditions tee to green, and everything in between, including rough.** Even bunkers are expected to be in perpetually perfect condition.

Most golfers don't know that the fairway and rough on older courses in Europe are not maintained to these levels, and that bunkers are unattractive and *real* hazards (see 2006 British Open host Royal Liverpool GC, below). It's nothing like the perfect landscape U.S. golfers expect.

Our Carolinas grasses most often look good, even when bermudagrasses are dormant brown. But let me ask: Do you shoot a better score on an attractive and well-manicured course? Do you feel better playing on perfect turf?

Perfect turf requires maintenance budgets so high that most clubs were priced out of that market even before the bubble burst in 2008.

Most clubs have reduced maintenance — and its budget. But does that make golf worse? Turf quality and bunker maintenance have declined in the last three years. Putting surfaces are maintained at high levels, giving consideration to environmental stresses and traffic wear. Do these mark a decline in golf?

Our better-educated superintendents do a good job of maintaining conditions with available resources. But how can

these stand up to the major events we see on TV? Major events are played on highly maintained courses, with expenses that are way out of reach for most clubs.

Should *our* courses look like *those* courses all year long? Is that realistic? No. Not even Augusta National maintains perfect conditions for more than a few months out of the year — they're only perfect during the Masters. Three months later, the course is not as highly maintained. The overseeded ryegrass fairways have died, and the azaleas are not in bloom.

The USGA Green Section Department promotes reducing maintenance in rough areas and reducing water use. Irrigation water is limited in many parts of the U.S., making it expensive. Less irrigation is encouraged to make fairways firm and fast, in addition to the water savings. And high-handicap golfers see longer drives.

Pinehurst No. 2 is an example of a turf-saving plan. The club recently removed some of its highly maintained turf — about 30 acres of bermudagrass were replaced with sand and grass clumps.

Not all turf maintenance costs are reduced by converting to sand, because weed control is required in those areas. Pinehurst changed to a single row of sprinkler heads in fairways, removing more than one row. Turf on the edges of fairways might be brown during dry weather. This might affect the look of turf, but I do not expect it to adversely affect the play of the game.

I first played golf on a small course when I was at the University of California at Davis in the 1960s. It was built on old farmland with poor drainage. Area soils had a lot of silt and salt. The course had limited irrigation, and fairways became dry during the summer. (Rain rarely falls from May to October in that part of California.) Grass did not grow well in areas with high salt content, and large cracks developed in the soil. The ball rolled long distances on fairways and sometimes disappeared into a large crack.

Not knowing many rules back then, we just dropped another ball and continued playing. It was some of the most enjoyable golf I ever played, and the price was right — green fees were \$5 to \$7 for students.

The point is, highly maintained turf and high golf fees are not required to enjoy the game. The business of golf needs more new players who can afford to play and learn to enjoy the game.

I believe golfers need to focus more on playing the game and less on how a course looks. Don't blame a poor shot on less-than-perfect conditions. It's more likely due to golf skills.

If you want perfect turf, turn your attention to your yard at home.

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



Investigating Rules Infractions

BOB YOW SERVES UP JUSTICE / written by BETSEY MITCHELL

While working as the Assistant Director of the North Carolina Justice Academy, Bob Yow's profession was all about investigating and solving crimes. After retirement, he turned to preventing "crimes" against golf. **But as a volunteer rules official, the best part of his day is helping players avoid penalties.**

Yow was an agent for the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) from the early 1970s. "The NCSBI was a great experience. I had the opportunity to work on a variety of cases, from misuse of state property to homicides."

One of his favorite memories involved golf. In 1974, the Secret Service tapped NCSBI agents to drive for then-President Gerald Ford's motorcade when he dedicated the World Golf Hall of Fame, which was originally in Pinehurst. "I got to see the whole ceremony," Yow recalls.

Yow started life in Greensboro, N.C., and played at Sedgefield Country Club. His career transplanted him to Clinton, N.C., where he is now well-rooted at Coharie Country Club. He plays almost every day, weather-permitting.

"I wanted to be a baseball player," Yow says. But the Guilford College graduate jokes that, early on, the baseball coach "encouraged me to play golf instead."

It was the right choice. "Since retirement (in 2003), I've been able to play a bunch of CGA senior championships and other national tournaments like the North & South at Pinehurst," Yow says. "I was awarded the Carolinas PGA Section Senior Player of the Year in 2009. That was a great year."

So a logical question in this investigation is: How does a skilled player transition to officiating?

"I was at a CGA event and I got to talking to Jack (Nance)," Yow says, adding that he's known the CGA executive director "for a long time. The first time I met Jack and his brother, they were about this high," he says, gesturing

with his hand about shoulder height.

Nance suggested that Yow might enjoy being a rules official. "And he was right," Yow says. He has volunteered for the CGA's "rules police" ever since, especially for Tarheel Youth Golf Association (TYGA) events.

"I really enjoy being out there with the junior golfers," Yow says. "It's great watching the kids as siblings, parents, and grandparents follow the game. It can be a real family affair. There are a lot of kids out there who wouldn't be able to play tournament golf without TYGA."

Yow, who still works part-time helping the Academy with curriculum design, knows the importance of education. He takes his role as a rules official seriously, and has attended three USGA rules workshops. "I'll never forget my first workshop," he says. "The instructor said we were not there to learn all of the rules; his goal was to help us learn how to find the answer in the book. It still serves me well."

Yow was recently named to the USGA Regional Affairs Committee. In this role, he will continue to serve the CGA and actively promote the USGA in the state of North Carolina.

"I'm honored to be named to this committee," Yow says. "I will also be spending time getting the word out about the Carolinas Golf Association's 'Setting the Course' (capital campaign to build the new CGA headquarters)."

"I've made a pledge in the memory of my father, Bryce Yow, who was an avid golfer and a member of Sedgefield Country Club for over 50 years," Yow says. "I'm also involved locally to encourage others to consider contributing to the campaign."

It's no mystery why Yow has gained respect from golfers — and golf officials. "Bob gets it," says the CGA's Nance. "He is a true gentleman and a great representative for the USGA and the CGA. He loves all aspects of the game."

Case closed.

➤ **Betsey Mitchell** is an award-winning, Pinehurst-based golf writer and frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.



The Lure of the Lake

GOLF IS JUST PART OF RUMBLING BALD RESORT'S CHARM

/ by CRAIG DISTL

It's a shame Yogi Berra has never visited **Rumbling Bald Resort in North Carolina's low mountain enclave of Lake Lure**. The baseball legend famous for uttering paradoxically astute one-liners would probably pronounce the resort "a conveniently located place that's not easy to get to."

And just like that, the rest of us amateur wordsmiths would have an apropos description of this unique destination.

Rumbling Bald sits in close proximity to many southeastern population centers. As the crow flies, it's a mere 35 miles from Asheville, 53 miles from Greenville, S.C., 85 miles from Charlotte, and less than 140 miles from both Winston-Salem and Columbia.

But as anyone who's ever driven there can attest, Rumbling Bald is hidden away in a world all its own. Twisting, tree-shaded roads take you deep into the Hickory Nut Gorge where, in 1927, the Broad River was dammed to create a 720-acre body of water named Lake Lure. A town by the same name incorporated that year and the pair instantly became a resort destination.

The forerunner of Rumbling Bald Resort sprang to life in 1968 when golf architect W.B. Lewis constructed a scenic and hilly layout at the confluence of byways Buffalo Creek and Buffalo Shoals, two roads with more twists and turns than an episode of *Desperate Housewives*.

That course at the base of Bald Mountain served as the centerpiece of a mountain retreat that included condos, villas, dining, tennis, boating, and a beachfront on Lake Lure.

By the 1980s, the timeshare boom spurred interest in the resort and led to the addition

of a second course in 1986, built by noted North Carolina architect Dan Maples.

Over the years, the resort changed names a couple times, navigated a bump or two in the road, and was purchased by the property owners association (POA) in the early 1990s. That proved to be a steadying force. Under POA ownership, amenities have been added, facilities upgraded, and the current name of Rumbling Bald Resort was adopted about four years ago.

The name is a nod to history. In late winter 1874, several tremors shook Bald Mountain, alarming residents who feared a major earthquake or volcanic eruption was imminent. The tremors produced neither, but prompted locals to nickname the peak "Rumbling Bald."

Golfers who rumble down Buffalo Creek Road or Buffalo Shoals Road to the picturesque resort these days encounter a quiet, well-maintained getaway — a place that knows what it is and knows what it isn't.

Although it offers two golf courses, a spa, an indoor pool, multiple restaurants, and dinner cruises on Lake Lure, Rumbling Bald does not pretend to be a luxurious, five-star retreat. Instead, it's a comfortable place — with a touch of luxury here and there — featuring two enjoyably different golf courses in a spectacular natural setting.

"We're more family-oriented than anything," says Director of Golf Art Colasanti. "Mom and Dad will play golf and the kids will do something else. The nights are peaceful. People go to the beach with the family and watch the sun go down. We do a marshmallow roast on Saturday evenings in the summer. It really is nice."

Golfaholics love Rumbling Bald because 36 holes of reasonably priced golf are available daily from early spring through late fall. And, thanks to the resort's moderate elevation (roughly 1,300 feet), one course is always available for winter play.

"Most people will play each course once, and whichever one they enjoy more, they will go back and play it again," Colasanti says. "The great thing about coming here is that you have 36 holes that are totally different. It gives you an opportunity to play two wonderful golf courses and stay in one place."

South Carolina native Dave Holmes, who grew up in Trenton, has been coming to Rumbling Bald for 30 years, ever since his dad came on a business golf trip and bought an annual two-week timeshare on the spot.

Holmes fondly remembers family vacations each August for a 15-year stretch. "Man, those mountains were fun. We had the river to inner tube on, we could play golf, rent a boat on the lake and go water-skiing, or visit Chimney Rock," says Holmes, who now lives in Atlanta. "We would play each course once, and sometimes we'd play one course twice. I told my dad, 'You did something right when you bought this place.'"

The younger Holmes likes the place so much that he picked it as the location to propose to his wife, Christina. They now



> **Rumbling Bald Resort features the Apple Valley (top) and Bald Mountain courses (right), plus the appeal of Lake Lure, where guests can re-create their own *Dirty Dancing* scenes.**

have the timeshare and plan to take their infant daughter this summer, assuring another generation of the family will have summer memories of Lake Lure.

Asked if he has a favorite course, Holmes gives a nod to Apple Valley, the newer of the two layouts: "I think Bald Mountain is prettier," he says, "but the design of Apple Valley is better." The course will host the 14th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur in September.

When it comes to national and international recognition, the Bald Mountain course receives more acclaim thanks to its cameo appearance in the movie *Dirty Dancing*. The 16th green is featured prominently in a scene of the 1987 hit movie that still captivates audiences today. In fact, Lake Lure recently started a *Dirty Dancing* Festival to capitalize on the movie's continued popularity.

"Golfers ask about it all the time," says

Colasanti. "They want to know: 'Which hole is *Dirty Dancing*? I told my wife I would take a picture.' "

In addition to being famous, the 16th is also a darn good hole. It's a moderate length par-3 requiring a tee shot over a lake to a green jutting out into the water.

The 16th also anchors a three-hole stretch that serves as sort of an "Amen Corner." It begins with the par-5 15th, which cascades down from one of the course's highest points to a small green with the lake in back. Although tight, the 15th is a gambler's delight because good drives set up the opportunity to hit the green in two. Of course, a small pond and a creek stand between the golfer and those dreams of an eagle or an easy birdie.

Next, the par-3 16th takes full advantage of the lake abutting the back of the 15th green, and can be a real test if the pin is tucked close to the water in front. After leaving the 16th green, golfers cross a bridge over a spillway to the 17th tee. The long bridge — covered in green turf — not only provides an alternate

view of the famous 16th, it also evokes similar walks that take place each April in Augusta.

At the remote tee, the par-4 17th bares its teeth. Often requiring a shot into the wind, a mountain on the left blocks this 421-yard dogleg, so it takes a drive of at least 240 yards to make the turn and be able to fire at a green with a creek in front.

The course relents at the 18th hole, a flat and mostly straightaway par-5 that runs back to the Bald Mountain clubhouse, only a few dozen yards from the resort entrance.

From this green one can see new arrivals eagerly making their way into the resort — their rearview mirrors finally clear of the crooked route that led to this conveniently located place that is not easy to get to.

"The difficult part is finding us," says Colasanti. "But once they find us, they naturally come back because they enjoy it just as much as we enjoy having them here."

> **Craig Distl** is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.



Home-Field Advantage

NATIVE SONS SET TO RETURN FOR 2012 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

/ written by JOHN MAGINNES

It takes years to become an **overnight success on the PGA Tour** — just ask Dustin Johnson or Webb Simpson.

Simpson, a two-time winner on the PGA Tour in 2011, traces those roots back to junior golf in the Carolinas, then college golf at Wake Forest and straight to the PGA Tour. Johnson's path was a little different. He grew up in South Carolina and became only the second Coastal Carolina Chanticleer to play on the PGA Tour — and the first to win at the highest level.

As young men, Simpson and Johnson were honored as CGA Players of the Year. Simpson recently donated part of his Presidents Cup proceeds to the CGA, as a token of appreciation for their support of junior golf (see page 20).

Johnson, Simpson, and a host of others who call the Carolinas home will have the unique experience of playing a major championship in their own backyards Aug. 9-12 when the PGA Championship visits The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island for the first time.

And there's more to come down the road, as two-time South Carolina Amateur Champion and current PGA Tour player D.J. Trahan points out. "It's not just one major at Kiawah, it's three majors in the next five years in the Caro-



► The Ocean Course, Hole No. 18



Bill Haas



Jonathan Byrd



Lucas Glover

linas,” he says. “I am pretty sure that has never happened before, and it is great.”

Trahan is right. In addition to the 2012 PGA Championship, the 2014 U.S. Opens (men’s and women’s) will be held at Pinehurst No. 2, and the 2017 PGA Championship will be held at Quail Hollow in Charlotte.

Lucas Glover, a three-time South Carolina Amateur Champion and winner of the 2009 U.S. Open, has his sights set on a second major championship win. “Anytime you can contend in a major — wherever it is — you are excited. To do it in South Carolina would be amazing.”

Bill Haas, the reigning FedEx Cup champion, lives in Greenville, S.C. He, too, was a CGA Player of the Year, and will tee it up at Kiawah. Haas continued a family legacy with outstanding play at Wake Forest, where he was highly decorated and set the all-time NCAA scoring average. Haas, like many of his fellow

Carolinians, may have a slight edge when the year’s final major gets under way on Kiawah.

Trahan, who lives in Charleston, thinks that those who grew up playing the Pete Dye design may have a slight advantage. “The Ocean Course is like another world,” he says. “There aren’t too many places like it. It can change with the sea breezes in a minute.”

The Dye masterpiece was rated as the toughest resort course in America by *Golf Digest* in 2010. It also boasts the most seaside holes of any course in North America, with 10 (the other eight run parallel to the ocean).

Trahan is still among those players hoping to qualify for the PGA Championship. Along with several other categories, the PGA of America runs a money list from PGA Championship to PGA Championship independent of any other money list. The top 70 players earn an exemption. Trahan has played in every PGA since

2007, so it seems likely that he will be able to do something that he has never been able to do as a member of the PGA Tour — stay in his own bed that week and drive to the tournament.

Davis Love III, the current Ryder Cup captain, doesn’t need to worry about entry into the PGA Championship. As 1997 champion, he is exempt. While it seems likely that Ryder Cup duties will fill much of Davis’ time leading up to the PGA Championship, he is still optimistic. “I really enjoy the style of play required on Pete’s courses,” he says. “You have to be



► The Ocean Course, Hole No. 2

“... It will be a great championship and the winner will have conquered one of the game’s toughest tests.”
— Dave Stockton

precise with your irons and you have to hit the ball in the right spot. The penalty for not pulling off a shot is always very severe.”

Love is a five-time champion at the RBC Heritage at Harbor Town and a two-time champion at the Players Championship. Both Harbor Town and the TPC in Ponte Vedra were designed by Dye. Although the 48-year-old hasn’t won on the PGA Tour since his 20th win in 2008, he has remained a full-time player and has shown signs of his old form in recent years.

If Love were to win at Kiawah, he would not become the oldest player to win a major — but he would be close. He would be 48 years, 4 months; Julius Boros won the 1968 PGA Championship at 48 years, 4 months, and 18 days.

It is interesting that Davis Love and Lucas Glover are the only two active players from the Carolinas who have laid claim to a major championship. Dustin Johnson has been close in both the U.S. Open and the memorable PGA Championship at Whistling Straits.

Another former Clemson Tiger, Jonathan Byrd, would love nothing more than to join his good friends as a major champion. Byrd and Glover have been battling each other since they were kids, although Glover will tell you with a smile that Byrd is “a lot older.” At 34, Byrd is two years older than his college teammate, and should be coming into his own. As Glover said in 2011, when he beat Byrd in a playoff at the Wells Fargo Championship, “We

have been doing this to each other for a long time. When he wins I am happy for him, and he has always been there to support me.”

Byrd may have been the best of the group of Clemson players to emerge within the last two decades. In college he was Clemson’s first-ever four-time First Team All ACC player. He played on the 1999 Walker Cup team and turned professional in 2000. He won what is now known as the BMW Charity Pro-Am on the Nationwide Tour in 2001, and was Rookie of the Year on the PGA Tour in 2002. For those who followed his junior and amateur careers, his quick success at the professional level was no surprise. He won the CGA Junior in 1995 and the Carolinas Amateur in 1999. He hasn’t had great success in a major championship as a professional, but feels like Kiawah could be a great fit.

As Dave Stockton, a two-time PGA champion said, “it only takes one; after that, they don’t talk about what you did in any of the others.” Stockton was the winning captain of the American Ryder Cup team at the Ocean Course in 1991. Twenty-one years later, he will be back at Kiawah to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the PGA of America. Asked about the PGA Championship returning to the Ocean Course, he said: “The course is every bit as relevant to the modern game as it was two decades ago. You can spend months preparing for a course like that and then not recognize it on the Thursday of the tourna-

ment if the wind switches from another direction. It will be a great championship and the winner will have conquered one of the game’s toughest tests.”

The eyes of the golf world will turn to Kiawah late this summer, and one of the most unique and recognizable courses in the world will once again take center stage. It is always a special event, “glory’s last shot,” as Jim Nantz from CBS has dubbed the final major of the year.

For those players who call the Carolinas home, it will take on an added meaning. Each player — from Davis Love III, Lucas Glover, and Jonathan Byrd to the younger generation of Webb Simpson and Dustin Johnson — spent their childhood on a driving range dreaming of this opportunity. Each one sunk the putt a thousand times on a putting green that would elevate him to golf immortality, if only in his imagination. At least one of those dreams has a chance to become a reality in August when a major championship is held in the Carolinas for the first time since 2005.

Players from the Carolinas don’t get home-field advantage in majors very often. For one, the dream of winning a major in his own backyard could be only a few weeks away.

► **John Maginnes** was runner-up of the 1991 CGA N.C. Amateur and is a former PGA Tour player. He is host of the *Maginnes on Tap* program on Sirius XM Radio, and a contributing writer to *Golfweek*.



Capital Campaign Heats Up

The “Setting the Course” campaign was created to raise funds to construct Carolinas Golf House, a headquarters that will include a Carolinas Golf Legacy Museum, an educational center, staff offices, and a junior golf area. The campaign will also provide funding for grow-the-game programs and the turfgrass management services overseen by the Carolinas Golf Foundation. Here are just a few recent and upcoming activities.

Save the Date

CGA ‘Reunion’ Set for Pine Needles on Oct. 21-22

CGA members and the public are invited to compete in “The Reunion” — a golf event celebrating CGA members past and present, from amateur to professional. The event will raise funds for the Carolinas Golf Foundation (CGF). Social

activities will begin Sunday, Oct. 21. Golf will be played at Pine Needles Resort (shown below) on Monday, Oct. 22.

“During its 100-plus year history, the CGA has never held an annual fun-filled event. The Reunion will change all that, and take the Foundation to a new level,” says Charles Lynch, chairman of the CGF.



In 1977, the CGA formed the Foundation as a 501(c)(3) organization to provide funds to sustain and support the golf industry in North Carolina and South Carolina. And it has done just that, raising more than \$1.5 million for some 40 separate organizations — from junior golf and turfgrass scholarships to disabled golfers.

“This Foundation has been just that ... a foundation,” says Lynch. “We have been there to support so many groups.”

While the CGF has been successful, the committee has decided to raise additional revenues to support even more causes in the country’s “golfing belt.”

The Reunion is expected to attract notable Carolinas Golf Association alumni and fans, including former and current PGA Tour players.

“Our first goal is to make this an entertaining and quality event, which hopefully will create a fun atmosphere year after year,” says Mike Smith, tournament chair from Greenville, S.C. “This will be an event for our family of golfers, both amateur and professional.”

At press time, The Reunion was still in the early planning stages. More information will be available soon. Visit carolinascgolf.org for updates.

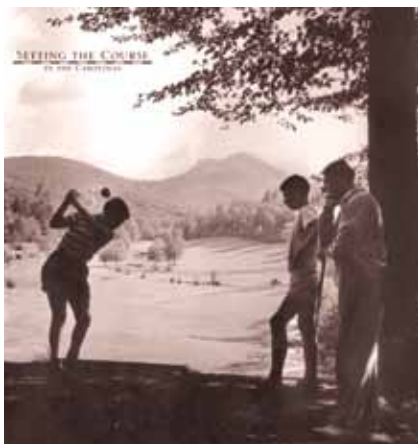
Webb Simpson Steps Up

Webb Simpson, a two-time PGA Tour event winner, recently designated \$5,000



to the “Setting the Course” campaign from his portion of the proceeds generated from The Presidents Cup 2011. There is no purse or prize money at the event. Instead, each competitor allocates their portion of the proceeds to chosen charitable causes.

Simpson, a Raleigh, N.C., native and Wake Forest alum, competed in many CGA amateur tournaments. He won the 1999 North Carolina Boys 13 and Under title and the 2001 North Carolina Four-Ball Championship. He also won the Southern Amateur (2005 & 2007); the Azalea Invitational (2004 & 2007); the Sunnehanna Amateur (2006); the Dogwood Invitational (2007); and was named to the 2007 Walker Cup and 2007 Palmer Cup teams. He turned professional in June 2008.



CGC Superintendents Association Joins Campaign

The Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA) has made a \$25,000 donation to the CGA's "Setting the Course" campaign.

"We see our donation as an investment and a thank-you at the same time," says CGCSA President Douglas Lowe. "It is an investment in the future

health of the CGA and the great work it does nurturing today's and tomorrow's amateur golfer. The CGA also does wonderful things with its scholarship program and its support of turfgrass research, which literally goes right to the grassroots health of an industry worth more than \$5 billion

annually in North Carolina."

The CGCSA was formed in 1954. With around 1,800 members, it is the largest affiliated chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. They also host an annual online auction of tee-times to raise money for golf turfgrass research called Rounds4Research.com.

CGA Legacy Museum to Work with USGA

The CGA plans to establish a Legacy Museum to exhibit artifacts and vintage photographs showing the rich golf legacy of the Carolinas.

The idea dovetails with a USGA Architecture Archive launched in 2011 to create a nationwide digital media bank. The USGA will request host venues of their 13 national championships to contribute original historic materials to its Architecture Archive.

Items include historic and modern course photographs, aerial photos, original design or restoration plans, scorecards and yardage books, videos and films, club histories, newspaper and magazine articles, and course brochures.

Several Carolinas clubs have made contributions to the

USGA Architecture Archive: Old Town Club, Yeamans Hall, Sedgefield, Linville, Charlotte CC, and Roaring Gap.

To view the USGA Architecture Archive, visit architecturearchive.usgamuseum.com/. Once you are assigned a "user name" and a "password" via e-mail, you can view archives on a state-by-state basis.



Your club can help these last 100 years come into focus by making digital contributions. Forward jpg or PDF files via CD or DVD to the Carolinas Golf Association: PO Box 319, West End, NC 27376.

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ROMANCING THE GREENS

CUSTOM-FITTING COULD LEAD TO PUTTER LOVE / written by ADAM SCHUPAK

The search for the perfect putter is like searching for the love of your life. The one person who completes you is out there, and so is that magic wand. Yet too many golfers looking for a new soul mate for the greens are traditionally herded over to a shop's putting corral to demo an off-the-rack model. Make two in a row (or, gasp, three) and it's love at first sight.

Trouble is, that's a recipe for unrequited love. To improve your chances for a long-lasting relationship with the most-used club in the bag, the smart recreational golfer is getting a putter fitting. Your putter's length, loft, and lie angle need to be adjusted to your specifications, to ensure you hit the sweet spot. Otherwise, direction and distance control can be impacted, and so will your chances on the greens.

The reasons for taking the time to undergo a putter fitting are simple. Playing with equipment that fits gives you the best opportunity to develop good fundamentals so that you don't have to re-learn them later. And, after all, would you continue to try to squeeze into size 8 shoes if a size 9 was more comfortable?

Experts say the most common error golfers make when buying a putter is choosing one that is too long. Many fitters use a telescoping shaft to match length to the player's posture. When a putter is the proper length, it should connect the distance from where the eyes hit the ground and where the arms hang naturally under the shoulders, says Todd Sones of Impact Golf, one of *Golf Digest's* "50 Greatest Teachers."

It's important to note that not all putter fittings are created equal. Tom Wishon,



longtime clubmaker and author of *The Search for the Perfect Golf Club*, compares custom fitting to getting a car wash: There are different levels — from the gas station variety to a full detailing. With putter fitting, there's everything from your basic wrist-to-floor measurement to science-based fitting sessions, like the Science & Motion Sports' SAM PuttLab or the Tomi personalized putting training device, that provide real-time data of your putting stroke and how it changes when you switch putters. Such tools allow golfers to compare clubs with a good degree of precision.

Today, nearly all models offered by the top putter brands are available in different configurations that you can fit to your physique and stroke.

That goes for belly and long putters, too.

Following the lead of a growing number of tour players, recreational golfers are clamoring for a putter with an extended handle that sticks into the stomach, sternum, or, as some prefer, the chin. The belly putter boom began in earnest in last August when Keegan Bradley won the PGA Championship, becoming the first player to win a men's major with an anchored putter.

"It can be a lifesaver," says putter designer Scotty Cameron.

But buyer beware: Don't fall for "one size fits all" here, either.

"The industry is well on its way to screwing up belly putting for the amateur," Sones says. "The industry standard is 41 inches and 43 inches. Even a half inch or quarter inch can make a huge difference as to whether or not a player will be able to set up properly and putt better."

properly and putt better."

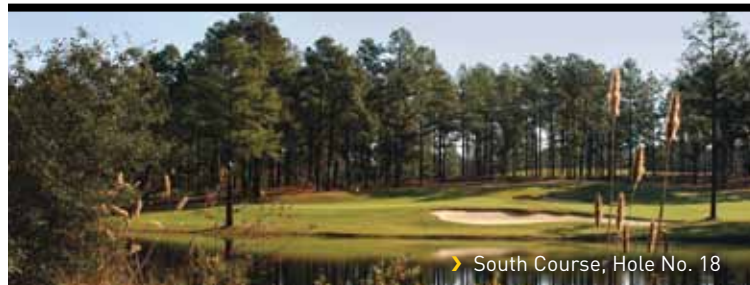
Belly putters typically come with heavier head weights than their traditional counterparts. It's not uncommon for a belly putter's head to weigh 50 grams or more than its standard-length counterpart. To ensure proper fitting of belly and long putters, most equipment makers have developed an adjustable fitting device to assist retailers.

One thing is clear: The days of "one size fits all" are over. A putter fitting will help you make more intelligent decisions about the most important club in your bag. And who wouldn't fall in love with that?

➤ **Adam Schupak** is a former senior writer at *Golfweek* and author of *Deane Beman: Golf's Driving Force*.

2012 CGA Championship Schedule*

/ CHAMPIONSHIP	/ SITE	/ DATES	/ WINNERS
4th Carolinas Young Amateur	Pinewild CC (Magnolia), Pinehurst, N.C.	1/2-3	Katherine Perry / Jordan Walor
North Carolina High School Invitational	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	4/2	Westchester Country Day, High Point
35th Carolinas Club Championship	Carolina GC, Charlotte, N.C.	4/9	Alamance CC: McLaughlin/Crenshaw
32nd Carolinas Mid-Amateur	Orangeburg CC, Orangeburg, S.C.	4/13-15	Scott Harvey
9th NC Women's Senior	Greensboro CC (Irving Park), Greensboro, N.C.	4/17-18	Pat Brogden
44th Carolinas Senior Four-Ball	Governors Club, Chapel Hill, N.C.	4/17-19	P. Simson/D. Detweiler
61st Carolinas Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	5/2-6	M. Crenshaw/B. Bowland
7th Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls'	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	5/5-6	Katelyn Dambaugh
27th NC Senior Amateur	Oak Valley GC, Advance, N.C.	5/15-17	Paul Simson
40th SC Amateur Match Play	Cobblestone GC, Blythewood, S.C.	6/13-17	
52nd NC Amateur	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	6/14-17	
NC Junior (45th Boys, 16th Girls)	Carmel CC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/19-22	
56th Carolinas Junior Girls	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	6/26-28	
6th NC Boys 13 & Under	Asheboro GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/9-10	
15th Carolinas Women's Amateur Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/10-12	
98th Carolinas Amateur	Charlotte CC, Charlotte, N.C.	7/12-15	
SC Junior Match Play (35th Boys, 12th Girls)	Lake Marion GC, Santee, S.C.	7/17-20	
4th Carolinas Super Senior	Mimosa Hills G&CC, Morganton, N.C.	7/18-19	
46th Twin States Junior Girls	CC of Lexington, Lexington, S.C.	7/24-25	
63rd Carolinas Junior (Boys)	CC of SC, Florence, S.C.	7/24-26	
46th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/27	
15th Carolinas Parent-Child	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/27	
7th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Prestonwood CC, Cary, N.C.	7/30	
3rd NC Amateur Match Play	Forest Oaks CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/1-5	
35th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Green Valley CC, Greenville, S.C.	8/7-8	
8th Dogwood State Junior Championships	Starmount Forest CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/7-9	
12th NC Senior Four-Ball	Rolling Hills CC, Monroe, N.C.	8/7-9	
1st Carolinas Super Senior Four-Ball	Camden CC, Camden, S.C.	8/21-22	
7th Carolinas Mixed Team	Myrtlewood GC (Pine Hills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	9/1-2	
19th NC Mid-Amateur	Benvenue CC, Rocky Mount, N.C.	9/14-16	
51st Carolinas Senior Amateur	Forest Creek GC, Pinehurst, N.C.	9/19-21	
14th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur	Rumbling Bald Resort, Lake Lure, N.C.	9/25-26	
5th NC Super Senior	Pine Island CC, Charlotte, N.C.	9/26-27	
17th NC Four-Ball	River Landing (River), Wallace, N.C.	10/12-14	
2nd Carolinas Net Amateur	Myrtlewood GC (PineHills), Myrtle Beach, S.C.	11/17-18	



➤ South Course, Hole No. 18

Forest Creek Golf Club in Pinehurst, N.C., will host the 51st Carolinas Senior Amateur

Forest Creek's two 18-hole courses were designed by Tom Fazio. Both have been ranked among *Golfweek's* Top 50 Residential Courses in the United States. The club has previously hosted sectional qualifying events for the U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Girls' Junior championships.

* Visit carolinascga.org to find schedules for qualifying sites, CGA one-day and senior four-ball tournaments, CGA Interclub events, Tarheel Youth Golf Association tournaments, USGA Championship qualifying sites, and player and team rankings. **Reminder: MyCGA users can register for tournaments online.**



➤ Hole No. 11

Charlotte CC to Host 98th Carolinas Am

/ written by RON GREEN JR.

When the 98th Carolinas Amateur championship visits Charlotte Country Club July 12-15, it will be a reunion of sorts.

The CGA's most prestigious event comes to a club rich and colorful with Carolinas golf history — a fitting communion of the game, its people, and one of its special places.

Charlotte CC has hosted six previous Carolinas Ams, but this time will be different. In 2007, architect Ron Prichard was hired to pull off the challenge of taking the Donald Ross design back to what it was, while setting it up for the future. The result is spectacular.

Prichard took what Ross created in 1915, worked off aerial photos from 1938, and re-created what the grand master had laid out on the wooded, rolling property. Tucked into a stately neighborhood close enough to downtown Charlotte that the tops of skyscrapers can be seen from spots on the course, Prichard brought back much of what was lost, scrubbed away some of what was added, and produced a course that can stretch to nearly 7,400 yards.

The fairways are wide, some 60 yards across, allowing players to be aggressive off the tee. Challenges come on approach shots where angles are critical, requiring precision and careful plotting. Greens are big and rolling, framed by classic run-off areas and flat-bottomed bunkers.

Since it was originally completed — Ross came back to tweak the layout for \$75 a day while building Pinehurst No. 2 — Charlotte CC has been touched and retouched, not always with the desired results. Three new finishing holes were created years ago; over time, the course became a Ross design in name only.

When 1981 Carolinas Amateur champion Nolan Mills discovered aerial photos of the course from 1938, it was like finding treasure. Prichard brought back more than 50 bunkers (the course now has 105) that had disappeared — including a devilish pot bunker in the middle of the second-shot landing area on the par-5 12th hole. Dozens of large trees were removed and Briar Creek was beautified.

“The golf course you see out there now is pretty close to the one that was out there,” when Ross signed off on it, Prichard said.

It's a big course, listed at 7,335 yards and par-71 from the championship tees. The front is defined by three muscular par-4s — the fourth, sixth, and eighth — while the back nine underwent significant changes during the restoration.

A new, longer par-4 16th hole was built and enhanced by the addition of two more bunkers

down the right side; the new par-3 17th features a sprawling hourglass-shaped green; and the green at the long, par-4 18th was shifted away from a towering oak tree but still framed by the elegant white clubhouse behind it.

Three of the par-4s — Nos. 4, 8, and 13 — will play at close to 500 yards.

Charlotte CC is where Gene Sarazen once worked as an assistant professional, and where top golfers from Bobby Jones and Sam Snead to Arnold Palmer have played. It hosted the 1972 U.S. Amateur, the 2000 U.S. Men's Senior Amateur, and the 2010 U.S. Women's Amateur championship.

“We want to treat the players and their families like they're members of the club for that week,” club CEO Damon DiOrio says. “We want it to feel special.” Each player will have a locker with a nameplate. There will be tee signs on each hole. It will feel like the big event it is, with a list of past winners that includes E. Harvie Ward, Billy Joe Patton, Chip Beck, Paul Simson, Charles Warren, and Jonathan Byrd.

“Now that it's stroke play (since 2010), it's a real test of golf for four days,” Mills says. “I look at the Carolinas Golf Association as the USGA of North Carolina and South Carolina. This is their championship. It's the one you'd like to have a shot at winning.”

➤ Ron Green Jr. writes for the *Charlotte Observer*.

The Heat is On



CONDITIONS INFLUENCE PRO'S GAMES ... AND YOURS

/ written by BOB FORMAN / illustration by KEVIN FALES

When Kiawah hosts the PGA Championship this August at the famed Ocean Course, **the players will have more than each other to contend with.**



The peak of the summer season will likely inflict environmental conditions that could have a definite impact on the outcome. These conditions can influence your game, as well.

There is no doubt that the summer temperatures and humidity in the Carolinas can influence a round of golf. When combined, these two measures form the heat index, which can elevate “real-feel” temperatures to well above 100 degrees. If unprepared, golfers will physically struggle getting through a four- to five-hour round.

When outside ambient conditions surpass internal body temperature, there is an increased demand for the circulatory system to dissipate body heat. This generally requires the heart to work harder as the blood it pumps moves the heat from inside the body out to the skin, where it can be dispersed. More blood to the skin means less blood for the working muscles.

The higher the heat index, the tougher it is to dissipate heat. This not only taxes a person’s energy levels (especially one who’s out of condition) and brings on fatigue and lethargy more quickly, it can also lead up to more serious disorders such as heat cramps and exhaustion.

Evaporation of sweat is one mechanism for regulating internal body heat. The process is less effective as humidity and heat index levels increase, because sweat takes longer to evaporate in these conditions. Consider wearing sweat-wicking apparel to facilitate heat loss away from the body.

A second mechanism is convection. On windy days, heat moves away from the body as air moves around it. The windier it is, the more effective heat removal will be. But windy conditions add to the physical demands of playing. Not only will golfers be more challenged with club and shot selection; they’ll also be required to expend more energy as they move through or against the air resistance.

It takes up to two weeks to become accustomed to environmental demands. That may not be so easy to do for PGA Tour players. With events in cooler, less humid conditions just before the PGA Championship (Canadian and the British Opens, the World Golf Championships—Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio, and the Reno-Tahoe Open the week before), competitors may not be acclimated to the hotter, more humid weather South Carolina will throw at them.

The good news for Carolinas golfers is that exposure to the summer heat and humidity will be gradual. This will allow for better adaptation by the body. However, there are additional factors to consider.

To negate the environmental conditions and physiological responses, golfers should be in good shape. This helps them meet the demands of heat regulation and stay sharp, both physically and mentally, throughout a summer round.

A fine-tuned cardiovascular system, as well as adequate musculoskeletal strength and balance, are essential for a better golf game —

regardless of weather conditions. Seek out a certified golf fitness professional to help you develop a progressive, individualized program.

Water consumption also is crucial. Even a small amount of dehydration from sweat loss and increased respiration can impact performance. Avoid this by drinking water before, during, and after the round.

Sodium, potassium, magnesium, and other essential minerals are lost through sweat. This can impair muscle, nerve, and cardiovascular function. If you tend to sweat excessively, consider electrolyte supplementation. Sport drinks are available, but watch the calorie count and sugar content. Electrolyte replacement tablets can be a viable alternative, as they can contain fewer calories and sugar. Read labels.

Pros competing at the PGA Championship and amateur golfers alike need to prepare for the challenge of the golf course and summer’s environmental conditions to enhance their safety — and help them be at their best throughout the entire round.

➤ **Bob Forman** is director of The Golf Fitness Academy at High Point Regional and author of the golf fitness website, golffitcarolina.com. Contact him at (336) 509-4610.

A Line in the Sand

PROTECTING GOLF'S 'AMATEUR STATUS'

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

Should receiving cash for playing video golf be a violation of the Rules of Amateur Status? Well, **a ruling that it is *not* a violation is just one of many unique decisions that dot the USGA's Amateur Status code.**

If there ever were a definitive “line in the sand” in any sport, it would be amateur status in golf.

When the USGA was founded in 1894, the bylaws went as far as to state that “an amateur is one who has never carried clubs for hire after attaining the age of 15, and who has not carried clubs for hire at any time within six years of the date on which the competition begins.”

While the USGA has certainly loosened its grip on this topic, it continues to draw lines. Today, the USGA states that an amateur is someone “who plays the game for the challenge it presents, not as a profession, and not for financial gain.” The goal is to keep the professionals and amateurs separate — not that the two groups can’t get along, but more so because of the money issue.

Many of us don’t have the luxury — or the talent — to play golf professionally; the choice to play for prize money has never tempted us. But the rules of amateur status go beyond teeing it up for money. Amateurs also can’t give lessons for money, accept a gift certificate or merchandise that exceeds \$750, or lend their name or likeness for advertising, etc.

Years ago, if an amateur even breathed the word “pro,” his status might be at risk. Some rules have been relaxed, including receiving cash for holes-in-one, accepting expenses to play in tournaments, and signing with an



agent while in college.

Here are just a few of the many questions the CGA office receives regarding amateur status:

• **Can an amateur play in professional events?** Yes, but with stipulations. Amateurs must indicate to the competition organizer prior to an event that they do not wish to compete for money and waive their right to prize money (Rule 3-1). The golfer can’t play in the tournament and *then* decide if they want to take the money and run.

• **Can a professional play in amateur events?** That solely depends upon the group running the event. This can crop up at club events (i.e., member-guests). The tournament

application should clearly state whether it is restricted to amateurs. Some clubs believe dues-paying members, no matter who, should be allowed to play with other members.

Clarity is needed in either case. Keep in mind that a professional can establish and carry a handicap, so as to compete equally amongst friends.

• **Are all forms of gambling illegal?** The USGA has done such a good job over the years in clarifying amateur status that many amateurs think any form of gambling is illegal. Not so. A buddy recently joked that he could not get a game with his friends if no gambling was involved! The USGA recognizes that it is common to make wagers while playing golf ... but only within reason. A few stars must all be aligned to make gambling acceptable. These are a) the players generally know each other, b) the wagering is optional and limited only to the players, c) the sole source of all money won by the players is advanced by the players, and d) wagers are not excessive. (There is no set amount on what is excessive. Factors include the total pool, number of golfers, and the amount of money that can be won.)

• **What’s the story on Calcuttas?** Calcuttas are viewed more harshly by the USGA. Many Calcuttas involve a) excessive money and/or b) non-competitors bidding on the teams. Either is not viewed favorably and could jeopardize one’s amateur status.

• **How long is the waiting period to get one’s amateur status back?** The general rule of thumb: A professional of less than five years will wait one year for reinstatement after the date of his last violation of the Rules. A professional of five years or more will wait two years. Of course, golfers who ignore or abuse the system altogether may find their waiting periods to be much longer.

The bottom line: Do your part to keep the wagers low, the bidding to Vegas experts, and the fun high. And consider giving up golf video games for the real thing!