

carolinasgolf

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Fall 2011



SETTING A NEW COURSE

CAROLINAS GOLF HOUSE PLANS ARE UNDER WAY



➤ **DONALD ROSS' ROOTS**
VISIT TO DORNOCH SHOWS
EARLY INFLUENCE

➤ **BUYER BEWARE**
COUNTERFEIT CLUBS
FLOOD THE MARKET

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Ross Roots Pilgrimage

There are some three dozen Donald Ross courses in the Carolinas. *Carolinas Golf* contributor Lee Pace recently made a "pilgrimage" to **Royal Dornoch Golf Club** in Scotland to see how the architect's roots influenced his designs.



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SETTING A COURSE FOR THE CGA'S NEXT 100 YEARS / 12

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The proposed Carolinas Golf House to be built near Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club in Pinehurst, N.C. Rendering courtesy of Summerour Architects.



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Mid-Season Musings

/ by WALTER TODD, President, Carolinas Golf Association

› With both the calendar year and the golf season more than half over, I would like to take this opportunity for some observations and reflections. I may jump around a little bit, so please work with me:

› The year's four majors have been filled with great story lines, and have set the stage for years of great rivalries.

› This year's Masters was one of the best ever. Rory McIlroy endeared himself by the way he handled Sunday at Augusta, and I enjoyed his U.S. Open win. Speaking of McIlroy, I love his pace of play. He doesn't have a conference or over-analyze each shot.

› International players are on a winning streak in the majors, but I believe Americans will win them again. There are a lot of great young players in the U.S.

› I enjoy seeing Tommy Gainey's success on the PGA Tour. He was installing insulation in Bishopville, S.C., when some of the guys he is competing against were playing in Walker Cups and Ryder Cups.

› I enjoyed Robbie Beirshank (owner of a South Carolina driving range and learning center) on the "Big Break." He's quite the "wordsmith."

› After years of experience, I have reached the conclusion that most of the time, you get what you deserve in this game.

› I genuinely like Stewart Cink, but often think how great it would have been for Tom Watson to have won the 2009 British Open.

› I fantasize about golf trips to Scotland: Full Scottish breakfast, 18 holes of golf, lunch, 18 holes of golf, several pints, and reliving the day. Then dinner, bedtime, and repeat.

› I'm very proud of Corbin Mills of Easley, S.C. Great victories at the U.S. Amateur Public Links and the Players Amateur.

› Larry Penley has built a terrific program at Clemson, full of both great players and outstanding citizens. A great tribute to a fine gentleman.

› Quite a relief to see The Heritage get a tournament sponsor (the Royal Bank of Canada, through 2016).

› The two oldest courses in the Carolinas are the Country Club of Charleston, and Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, and they are absolutely still two of the very best.

› The amateur game is alive and well; the competition is quite keen.

› A golfer can learn, forget, and re-learn something new every day.

› I am thankful that John McConnell loves golf and its courses.

I will leave you with a quote that I think is relevant to the game:

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn." — Harriet Beecher Stowe

There is a lot of golf left to be played. Enjoy your game!

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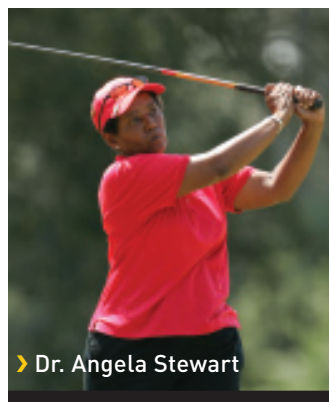
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NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

› **Larry Boswell, Scott Hoch, and Howard Ward** are 2011 inductees into the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame. Boswell of Jamestown, N.C., is one of the most successful players in Carolinas golf history, winning CGA championships in five different decades. He holds 13 CGA championships, has competed in 11 USGA championships, and won the Florida International Four-Ball. Hoch was born in Raleigh and graduated from Wake Forest University in 1978. After turning professional in 1979, he won 11 times on the PGA Tour (total winnings topped \$18 million) and three times on the PGA Champions Tour. He also won the Vardon Trophy for low stroke average on the Tour in 1986 and was a member of two Ryder Cup teams (1997 and 2002). Ward worked for the *Fayetteville Observer* for 41 years, including 27 years as sports editor, and became golf editor of *The Pilot* in Southern Pines. He's covered national championships, including 22 Masters, and numerous CGA events.



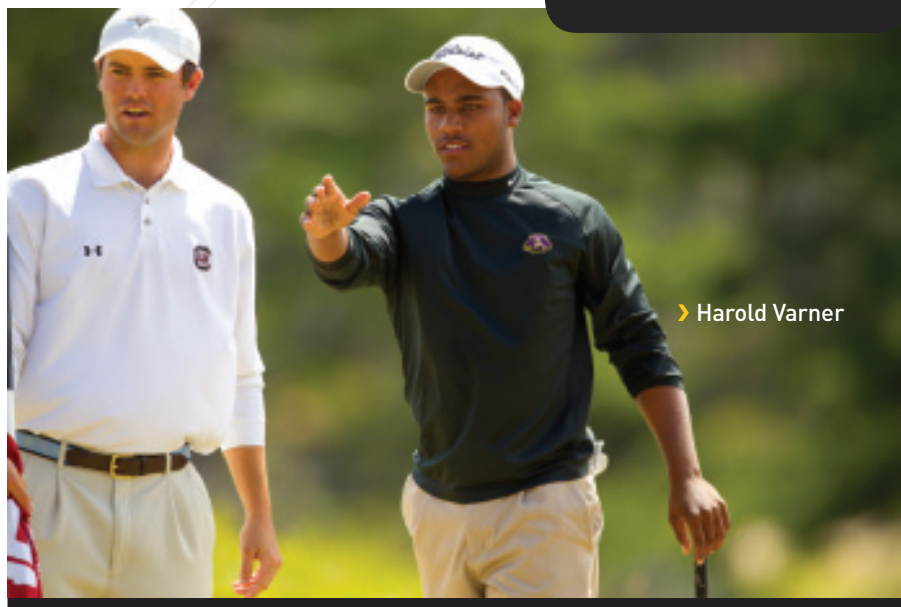
› **Dr. Angela Stewart**

› **Dr. Angela Stewart, 56,** became the first golfer of African-American descent to win a CGA title. The pediatrician from Greenville, N.C., took the 2011 North Carolina Senior Women's Crown at Pinewood CC in Asheboro, N.C., in April. Stewart, who took up the game at age 40, has also played in the USGA Women's Mid-Amateur and the USGA Women's Senior Amateur.

› **Norman Swenson, age 64,** died this spring. The Charlotte, N.C., resident was aboard an airplane returning from an international four-ball tournament in South Korea where he and Kevin Hammer teamed up to represent Pine Valley Golf Club. Swenson, a former Wake Forest golfer, played on three ACC Championship teams before graduating in 1969. He was a longtime member of the Society of Seniors and traveled the world to play in multiple senior tournaments. Swenson also started and grew a portrait studio business that at one time had 8,000 employees and did \$140 million in annual revenue.

› **Austin Ernst** from Seneca, S.C., recently won the individual title at the NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championship. The freshman at Louisiana State University twice posted 6-under 66s. She has previously won three CGA events — the 2010 Carolinas Match Play, as well as two Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls (2008 and 2010). She also won the 2007 South Carolina Junior Girls title.

› **Harold Varner** of Gastonia, N.C., shot a final-round 66 to win the 51st N.C. Amateur at Greensboro CC's Farm Course in June. The 20-year-old rising senior at East Carolina is the first male African-American golfer to win a title in the CGA's 102-year history. Varner followed up by completing the "NC Am Slam," taking the top spot in the 2nd North Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship in August.

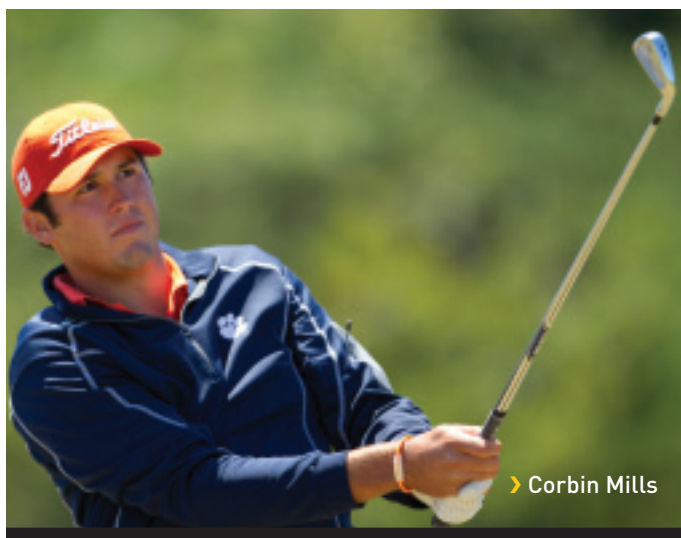


› Harold Varner

› **Dirk Fennie**, who led the Greensboro College men's golf team to its second NCAA Division III national championship this spring, has been named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Fennie, who won the 1999 NC Amateur as a player, was also tabbed the USA South Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, and three golfers earned PING All-America honors. Fennie just completed his second season as the Pride's golf coach. Previously, he had been a volunteer assistant to GCAA Hall of Fame coach Jack Jensen at Guilford College.

became the first Sandhills golfer to win the prestigious amateur championship since Kelly Mitchum of Pinehurst in 1993.

› **Charles "Charlie" W. Byers** and **Paul Himmelsbach** have been inducted into the Myrtle Beach Golf Hall of Fame by representatives of Burroughs & Chapin and Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday. Byers was a founding member of The Dunes Golf & Beach Club and was among a group who opened The Surf Golf and Beach Club and other clubs. Himmelsbach co-created the World Amateur Handicap Championship and also partnered with his brother and others to create The Glens Golf Group, known for courses like Heather Glen, Glen Dornoch, and Shaftesbury Glen.

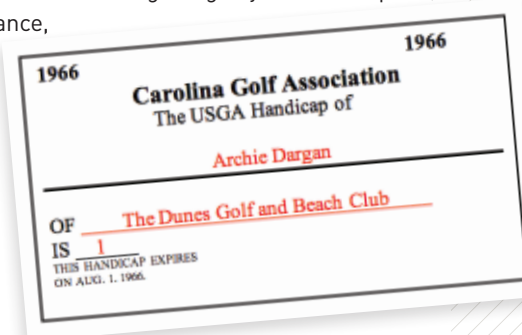


› Corbin Mills

› **Corbin Mills**, 21, of Easley, S.C., parred the first playoff hole to defeat Derek Ernst in 37 holes and win the 2011 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship contested at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. Mills became the first qualifying medalist to win the APL since fellow Clemson Tiger D.J. Trahan in 2000, also in 37 holes at Heron Lakes in Portland, Ore., five hours north of Bandon Dunes. The medalist has gone on to win the championship four out of five times the APL has been held in Oregon.

› **Jack Fields** became the first local golfer to win the Men's North & South Amateur Championship in nearly two decades with a 5 and 4 victory over David Erdy in the 111th playing of the event. Fields grew up 15 minutes from the Pinehurst No. 2 course in Southern Pines. After the win, the former University of North Carolina golfer tipped his hat to the local fans. Fields

› **Archie Dargan**, former president of the CGA (1978-79), died in July at age 86. The native of Darlington County, S.C., served in the Army Air Corps, 1943-1945. He flew 37 missions and shot down four enemy fighters, earning the rank of first lieutenant. He was a 1949 graduate of Clemson University, and founded Dargan Construction Co. in 1953. The company built many area hotels, condominiums, theatres, and hospitals. Dargan was also an investor and served on numerous boards of directors, and donated financial support to colleges, universities, and churches. Several years ago and well after his golfing days were complete, Dargan called Jack Nance, CGA executive director, to ask a favor. He mentioned that his grandson could not believe he was a 1 handicap at some point in his life. The CGA created a "sample" handicap card to prove that he could, indeed, play to that level. Dargan's construction company as well as his humanitarianism is still widespread in the Myrtle Beach area today.





Annual Getaway Hits Sweet 16!

CGA ISLAND FOUR-BALL RETURNS TO CASA DE CAMPO

The Casa de Campo resort in the Dominican Republic will host the 16th annual CGA Island Four-Ball Getaway on Feb. 14-18, 2012.

The Island Four-Ball is a three-day, four-ball (better-ball) partners event for golfers or, for those non-golfers, it is a chance to escape to warmer climates in February. Teams are pre-flighted according to handicap within their division. Teams may choose to play in the Championship division or Tournament division (shorter tees).

Contestants and guests can book four- or seven-night packages, with tournament rounds on Feb. 15-17. There are also extra-night package rates available, so you can customize your trip (see pricing at right).

Casa de Campo is home to three Pete Dye-designed golf courses. Dye, considered by many to be one of the world's top golf course architects, has designed three of the most internationally renowned courses at Casa de Campo. The breathtakingly beautiful Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore, and Links courses offer distinct challenges and distinguished charm and beauty. Each course will host one round of the tournament.

The getaway package includes the tournament entry fee, lodging in a standard category room for four or seven nights, a resort golf cart, three meals a day, unlimited drinks at all hotel restaurants and bars, three tournament rounds, unlimited green fees, range balls on all three resort courses, club storage, transfers to and from La Romana/Santo Domingo/Punta Cana airports, golf staff gratuities, taxes, and service charges. Attendees are responsible for their own air transportation to the Dominican Republic. There is no nickel and diming!

Last year was a record-setting year for this trip as over 100 CGA golfers made the trip! Many of the "veterans" say they cannot find a better bang for their buck anywhere else.

► *For more information and a tournament application, visit carolinagolf.org, or call the CGA at (910) 673-1000. The registration deadline is Dec. 19 or when the trip is full (96 participants). As of early August, 40 had signed up. So, hurry!*

2011 ISLAND GETAWAY PRICING

- **4-night double** = \$1,874 per person
- **4-night single** = \$2,369 per person
- **4-night nongolfer double** = \$1,479 per person
- **7-night double** = \$3,189 per person
- **7-night single** = \$4,069 per person
- **7-night nongolfer double** = \$2,434 per person
- *Extra Nights** = \$298 double or \$419 single

Prices are all-inclusive and include airport transfers from La Romana (LRM), Santo Domingo (SDQ), and Punta Cana (PUJ) airports.

NOTE: Airfare is not included in pricing. Participants are responsible for air transportation.

**Extra nights are all-inclusive except for golf.*

► Time to Play

Not playing golf? There are other exciting ways for adults to play all day. Whether you practice a sport you already love or want to try something new, Casa de Campo offers round-the-clock options ranging from tennis and trail riding to sport fishing and skeet shooting. If you're not the sporty type, looking sporty is always in fashion, and the shopping throughout Casa de Campo is an activity unto itself. Whether you get geared up to play or parlay, breezy venues where you can sip a cool beverage and feel fabulous are near every sports facility. Be sure to treat yourself to a spa massage, too.



› 2012 PGA Championship to have \$193 Million Impact

After the most successful ticket pre-sales in PGA history, the 2012 PGA Championship is expected to generate a total overall economic impact of \$193 million for South Carolina when it visits Kiawah Island Golf Resort (shown at right) on Kiawah Island. The championship has already exceeded economic predictions by \$8 million due to advanced sales. With 210,000 spectators, it is forecast as the largest sporting and social event ever to descend upon South Carolina. The 2012 PGA Championship is developing into the No. 1-demanded ticket in PGA history. The seven-day tournament will attract more than 50,000 out-of-town visitors. Some \$92 million will come from direct spending from visitors, including more than \$4 million in estimated local accommodation, restaurant, sales, and admissions taxes. Some 60 percent of ticket sales have come from attendees 50-plus miles outside of Charleston, S.C.

› Pinehurst Reveals 2014 U.S. Open Logos

Pinehurst Resort and the USGA introduced three logos representing the unprecedented back-to-back U.S. Opens to be held at Pinehurst in 2014.

Pinehurst will host the U.S. Open Championship from June 12-15, followed by the U.S. Women's Open Championship from June 19-22. This will be the first time the USGA has held these U.S. Opens back-to-back at a single venue.

The USGA and Pinehurst unveiled individual logos for each championship as well as a dual logo that represents the two weeks of competition. As with the 1999 and 2005 U.S. Open logos, Pinehurst's famous "Golf Lad" is represented. The Lad preceded the fabled "Putterboy" and was first unveiled in 1906. Pinehurst brought the Lad back for the 1999 U.S. Open. In the U.S. Women's Open logo, the cardinal (North Carolina's state bird and an icon of the Carolina Hotel) sits atop the Women's Open trophy.



› USGA Selects Country Club of Charleston to Host 2013 Women's Amateur

The USGA has selected the Country Club of Charleston to host the 2013 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, to be held Aug. 5-11. The club has a rich history. The CGA was organized there in 1909, and it hosted the second Carolinas Am in 1911—the first of six Carolinas Amateurs held there. The current course was designed by Seth Raynor, and revised by John LaFoy in 1990-91, following Hurricane Hugo. Additional revisions were made by Brian Silva in 2007. It also hosted the 1993 Carolinas Junior championship. This will be the club's first USGA championship. For more information visit usga.org.



› CGA Enters the 'Blogosphere'

The Carolinas Golf Association (CGA) will use various contributors to give members insight and opinions on your golf association. The blog kicked off with daily posts from Rick Cloninger of Fort Mill, S.C., who played in the U.S. Senior Open championship in late July. Look for more blog posts at <http://carolinasgolf.wordpress.com>.

› Heron Point Named a Top Course for Women

Golf Digest has named Heron Point, the Pete Dye-designed course at The Sea Pines Resort, one of America's "Top 50 Courses for Women." The accolade is a result of Heron Point's playability, multiple tees rated for women, welcoming atmosphere, and golf shop featuring a wide selection of women's equipment and apparel.

"Anyone familiar with Pete Dye's amazing body of work knows his wife Alice is intimately involved in the design process," says Cary Corbitt, director of Sports Division at Sea Pines Resort. "Forced carries, tee placements, approach angles, and difficulty are all carefully evaluated to ensure golfers have fun and fair playing experiences."

A panel of more than 100 female raters provided feedback to create the rankings. Each course on the list has at least one set of tees shorter than 5,300 yards, two tees with course and slope ratings for women, and few or no forced carries.

In 2007, Dye completed a \$9 million overhaul of the Sea Marsh Course resulting in Heron Point. For details, visit seapines.com/golf/heron-point-by-pete-dye.asp.

› Triad Fundraiser Nets \$50,000 for First Tee

The Wyndham Championship, the local First Tee of the Triad chapter, and Greensboro Jaycees combined efforts to raise some \$50,000 for the Triad charity on May 2 at Sedgefield Country Club, host of the 72nd Wyndham Championship in August.



The First Tee of the Triad is part of a World Golf Foundation initiative to benefit children who would not normally be exposed to golf by introducing them to the game

and its values. Golfers, including last year's Wyndham Championship winner Arjun Atwal, began the event by teeing off in a fundraising tournament. Atwal also followed fellow participants in joining The First Tee Club, which requires an annual \$500 donation toward junior golf. Find out more at thefirstteetriad.org or wyndhamchampionship.com.

New CGA Member Club

› Thorndale Country Club, Oxford, N.C.

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Day 3: Tee off at one of NC's top 100 courses at **Cross Creek Country Club** in Mount Airy. After your round of golf, relax in town, discover Mayberry and sample even more great local wine.

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Setting a New Course

CAROLINAS GOLF ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

/ written by CRAIG DISTL

For more than 100 years the Carolinas Golf Association has supported amateur golf in North Carolina and South Carolina. With the launch of its capital campaign, the CGA is in the unusual position of now asking golfers to give to the association.



CGA Executive Director Jack Nance admits to being a little out of his comfort zone in announcing a \$5 million fundraising campaign to build a Carolinas Golf House, complete with a Carolinas Golf Legacy Museum, and to endow the Carolinas Golf Foundation. But, he figures one campaign a century is probably OK.

“In 102 years, the CGA has never done anything of such magnitude,” says Nance. “This is our one-time shot at making this plan work and setting us on course for the next 100 years.”

The reality is that the association has out-

grown its offices in the town of West End near Pinehurst, N.C., and now’s the time to get the organization on solid footing for another 100 years.

The campaign — supported largely by tax-deductible donations — will fund a 13,000-square-foot, two-story Carolinas Golf House on the grounds of Pine Needles resort in Southern Pines, N.C.

The main purpose for the new building is to give the CGA staff the proper facilities needed to run the hundreds of tournaments conducted annually, as well as provide space for other duties, including course ratings,

tournament rules officiating, and supporting golf with its charitable arm.

Heavy Hitters and Grassroots Support

The campaign has been titled “Setting the Course,” and will be co-chaired by two golfers well known throughout the Carolinas: Jonathan Byrd of Columbia and Chip Beck of Fayetteville (see pages 14 and 15). Both golfers won the CGA’s Carolinas Junior Amateur and Carolinas Amateur championships on their way to the PGA Tour, so they are keenly aware of what the association means to its 168,000 members across two states.

Another heavy hitter supporting the campaign is Johnny Harris of Charlotte. Harris is president of Quail Hollow Club, a member of stature at Augusta National, and the man who engineered the PGA Tour's return to Charlotte with what is now the Wells Fargo Championship. He has also secured the 2017 PGA Championship for Quail Hollow.

"The exciting thing about this campaign is it is a way for us to recognize the hard work that people like Jack [Nance] and his staff have done to let us have one of the premier golf organizations in the country," Harris says. "You have a situation where these people have always been so supportive of golfers throughout the two states and now, all of a sudden, we need to help them with their facility and help them continue to support the game."

Both Harris and Nance recognize the campaign will not be just about the folks who write big checks. Its success will also be determined by thousands of smaller donations by people touched over the years by this service-oriented, nonprofit association.

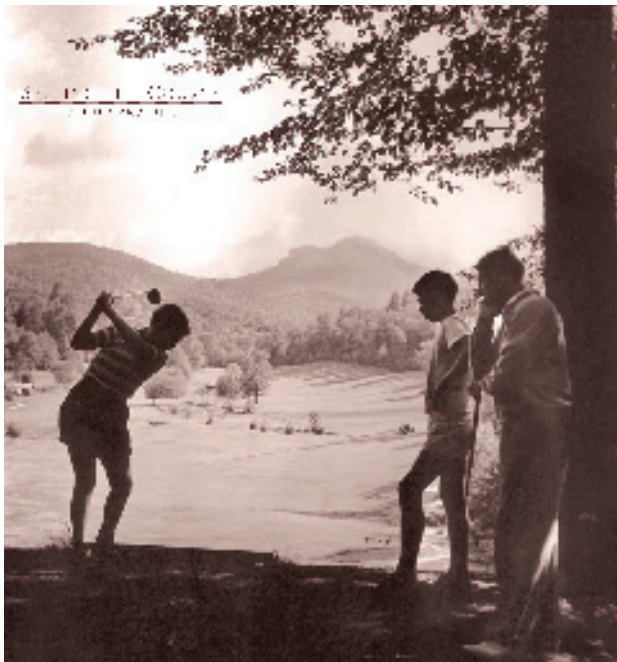
"What you're going to see is this is going to be a grassroots campaign," says Harris, who has already made a sizable donation himself. "There will be people who give significant dollars to lead the campaign, but the real value is going to be participation of people throughout both states."

"Our member clubs will also be critical to our fundraising success," Nance adds. "For example, in Charlotte, Myers Park Country Club, under the leadership of Butch Little, has raised \$38,000 so far toward this cause. We hope other member clubs will follow Myers Park's example!"

A Showplace for Carolinas Golf

The vision is to make the new Carolinas Golf House headquarters a showplace for Carolinas golf, much the same way the USGA Golf House in New Jersey is for golf nationwide.

The golf house will also allow the CGA to have a more visible presence for its members. Nance knows that many CGA members don't



➤ Details about the CGA's capital campaign, including this brochure, are at settingthecourse.org.

even realize they are members, unless they play in CGA tournaments.

"We've gone along over the years just running our golf tournaments and championships and trying to do a lot of neat things for golf, but we've never really made a push like this," Nance says. "There are many people who don't realize they are CGA members. If someone belongs to a CGA club and carries a USGA handicap, then he or she is a CGA member. This will be a way to show all of our supporters what they are a part of."

Location was key in where to build the new facility. The CGA scouted several sites in the greater Pinehurst area before deciding to acquire a half-acre tract on the grounds of Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club. It is a perfect fit because the Donald Ross-designed

layout at Pine Needles is a popular golf destination, and the resort has a conference center and meeting space the CGA can use for course rating and rules seminars, tournament programs, and board meetings. Pine Needles also includes Mid Pines Resort across the street, and has a short course the CGA can use to grow junior golf.

"A lot of other things are already in place at Pine Needles, so it's a great tie-in," Nance says.

Spreading the Word ... and Giving Back

Word of the CGA's capital campaign is just getting out. It was announced

quietly during the CGA's annual meeting in February at The Dunes Club in Myrtle Beach, but the broader push begins this fall.

A website — settingthecourse.org — was established, and as of July, the campaign had received more than \$270,000 in pledges.

One of the most touching stories of the campaign comes from volunteer rules official Tom Anderson of Spartanburg, S.C. Anderson, 63, and owner of Business Information Systems, has been searching the last few years to find a golf-related charitable cause to which he could leave part of his estate. When he attended the annual meeting in Myrtle Beach and heard about the fund drive, he immediately found the answer to his search.

"A portion of my estate will go to the CGA specifically for the Golf House. Hopefully that won't be executed too soon, but I want to make that provision," Anderson says. "I want to give something back to the game. The CGA has been good to me, and I feel the Golf House is going to perpetuate what is a fabulous institution, the CGA, and promote the game of golf."

Those of us who play golf in the Carolinas probably take our association for granted. We don't think about the annual subscription we receive to *Carolinas Golf* magazine, or the support staff needed to accurately provide handicaps to 168,000 golfers from 705 member clubs. We read about the championships that celebrate our greatest amateurs and course



Donate Now!

All donations to the CGA's capital campaign are fully tax-deductible. For details, visit settingthecourse.org or call (910) 673-1000. You can also mail in your donation today! Just use the handy form between pages 14-15 in this issue of *Carolinas Golf*.

ratings which are continually updated. However, we don't think about the staffers and rules and course rating volunteers who endure long, hot days to make sure the proper rules and ratings are implemented and followed.

Lea Anne Brown, membership director of Bulls Bay Golf Club in Charleston, S.C., grew up in Kentucky and played collegiately at the University of Kentucky. She's experienced tournament golf in a lot of places, and offers nothing but kudos for CGA events.

"The CGA is the core of golf in the Carolinas," explains Brown. "They have so many tournaments and they are run first-class. It is so organized. They roll out the red carpet."

Honoring the Past ... and Looking Forward

That first-class tournament operation is part of the CGA's great history — a history dating back to 1909, and a history that will be celebrated in the new building.

Paying tribute to Carolinas golf legacy is an exciting aspect of this project for golfers like 80-year-old Bill Williamson of Charlotte. His father was CGA president from 1937-38, so he's contributing to the campaign to honor his father, as well as all the CGA has meant to him during a successful amateur career.

"The Carolinas Golf Association does have a story to tell, and I think people will want to support the association because so many people have gained from it," Williamson says. "It has an incredible history."

Room-naming opportunities will also be available to allow golfers the opportunity to honor person(s) perpetually, and donations can be spread over a 3 to 5 year period.

"Our first priority is to get the financing of the project in order," says Nance. "We will start the project after we receive enough donations and pledges to jumpstart the program."

All donations to the capital campaign are fully tax-deductible. For more information, visit settingthecourse.org or call the CGA at (910) 673-1000.

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

Meet the CGA Capital Campaign's Honorary Chairs / by JOHN DELL

Jonathan Byrd

When Jonathan Byrd was asked to be a part of the capital campaign to help raise money for the Carolinas Golf Association and Foundation (CGA and CGF), he was flattered.

"I'm just honored that they would ask me and to be a part of it along with Chip Beck," says Byrd, who was born in Anderson, S.C., and raised in Columbia, S.C.

Byrd, 33, says that helping the "Setting the Course" campaign is something he strongly believes in because of the way the CGA helps golfers of all ages in both North and South Carolina.

"I've always been a fan of the Carolinas Golf Association and the South Carolina Golf Association, and those organizations helped me so much in my early career as a junior and as an amateur," Byrd says.

Byrd, who is having his best season on the PGA Tour, has made more than \$14 million in his career and is 68th on the career money list. But he often thinks back to his amateur days, where he learned how to compete.

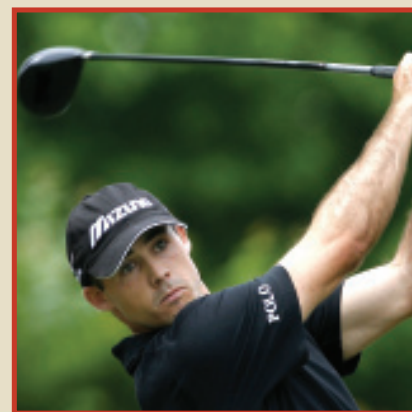
Byrd won the 1995 CGA Junior Championship and was the winner of the David Parrott Award for sportsmanship, ability, and academic excellence. He also won the 1999 Carolinas Amateur and says that summer between his junior and senior year at Clemson helped his confidence in a big way.

"I was going into my senior season at Clemson, and to win a meaningful tournament like the Carolinas Amateur was very satisfying," says Byrd, who also won several other top-flight amateur tournaments that summer.

Byrd says that winning the CGA Junior Championship and following that up four years later with the Carolinas Amateur was all part of the process

that helped him become a successful pro player.

"I can remember the first time playing competitive golf and just being at WildeWood Country Club (in Columbia) playing in tournaments there on Monday, and that was the start of it," Byrd says. "Now I'm on the biggest stage doing it for a living and it's still that feeling of competing. You never lose that." Byrd also credits his late father, Jim Byrd, who played football at North Carolina,



with giving him his start in the game. Jim Byrd, who died from brain cancer in 2009, introduced Jonathan and his older brother, Jordan, to the game.

Byrd learned early that the competition, no matter what the stakes, is what drove him to get better.

"I guess you can say those CGA wins kind of catapulted me to where I've gotten today," says Byrd, who starred at Clemson and was a teammate with the PGA Tour's Lucas Glover, Charles Warren, and D.J. Trahan.

Byrd acknowledges that the drive to succeed in golf was something he learned at an early age.

"Just trying to beat the field no matter what level you are playing is something that I was taught at an early age," Byrd says. "Whether it's junior golf or in high school or college or in pro golf, it's

one of the great challenges to see how you stack up.”

Byrd, who isn’t a long hitter but has a great short game, was Clemson’s first four-time All-ACC selection and was a first-team Academic All-American, graduating with a 3.6 grade point.

Once he got to the PGA Tour in 2002 he didn’t disappoint, and was the Tour’s rookie of the year. Byrd has five career wins on the PGA Tour (he also won once on the Nationwide Tour) including this year’s Hyundai Tournament of Champions when he won in a playoff.

Byrd nearly won the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow this past May, but lost to Glover in a playoff.

When it comes to being a part of the CGA’s efforts to raise money for its new home, Byrd is more than happy to help.

“I feel like the CGA gives opportunities and is great for the game of golf,” Byrd says, “and they certainly do so much, so it was something that I very much wanted to be a part of.”

Chip Beck

When Fayetteville native Chip Beck came close to winning the Greater Hickory Classic at Rock Barn in June, he was disappointed he couldn’t pull off the victory.

“I haven’t won in North Carolina as a pro, and I’m kind of mad about that,” says the 54-year-old Beck, who is a regular on the Champions Tour.

Beck may have not won in his home state as a pro (he also nearly won the Greater Greensboro Open a few times on the PGA Tour), but he certainly brought home plenty of hardware from CGA tournaments as an amateur.

Beck says that the CGA had a major influence on him, especially as a junior who was looking for the best competition out there. “I played my first CGA tournament when I was 11 years old,” he says. “And I remember a kid by the name of Robert Foster used to win them all back then.”

Beck, who has lent his name to the CGA’s “Setting the Course” campaign to help raise money for the new Carolinas Golf House, says the organization is something he strongly believes in.

“It’s a great organization and it influenced me in a big way,” Beck says. “Playing in those tournaments really helped me gain the perspective and the experience I needed. They really made you feel like you were playing for something big, and that’s something I’ve never forgotten.”

Beck says the lessons he learned from Hale Van Hoy, former executive director of the CGA, were invaluable.

“Hale was fair with us, yet he was



firm and he really made the tournaments special for all of us who played in them,” Beck says.

Beck moved from the junior-golf ranks to the University of Georgia where he was an All-American. Beck also won the 1976 and ’77 Carolinas Amateur when he was a college student at Georgia and came home for the summers.

He graduated from Georgia in 1978 and went on to win four times on the PGA Tour, once on the Japanese Tour, and wound up winning more than \$7 million. He was very consistent on the PGA Tour, but what many remember might be the time he broke 60.

He still gets asked a lot about the 59 he shot in the Las Vegas Invitational on Oct. 11, 1991 when he made 13 birdies and no bogeys. When he made his

final putt he was the second PGA Tour player to accomplish the feat, joining Al Geiberger.

He later joined the Champions Tour, where he hasn’t won yet, but keeps knocking on the door. He’s made a little more than \$2 million in his five years on the Champions Tour and doesn’t appear to be slowing down.

Beck couldn’t help but recall his first CGA title as a 15-year-old when he won the Carolinas Junior.

“I was riding back home with Tony Evans after that win and I was lucky enough to beat a guy from Charlotte who was going to play at North Carolina on a golf scholarship,” Beck says about the victories in 1972 and ’73. “But since I won it that year I wanted to do it again the next year to prove that it wasn’t a fluke, and I was able to win it again.”

Beck says that the memories he has of the CGA tournaments is one of the reasons he thinks so highly of what the organization is about.

“There needs to be more organizations like the CGA, especially in today’s world that we live in,” says Beck, who especially likes how the CGA helps out junior golf in North and South Carolina.

The CGA hopes to raise \$5 million to help grow its initiatives that include focusing on junior golf, turfgrass management services, and overseeing the Carolinas Golf Foundation.

“Without a doubt, the CGA helped my development,” Beck says. “It was a great experience in regards to the social aspect as well as golf.”

As for winning again in his home state, Beck is already looking forward to the SAS Championship in the fall at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary.

“I’ll get another chance,” Beck says. “It would just mean so much to me to win again in North Carolina because that’s where it all started for me.”

➤ **John Dell** is a golf writer based in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Roots of Donald Ross

DORNOCH PILGRIMAGE SHOWS EARLY INFLUENCE

/ written by LEE PACE



Editor's Note: There are some three dozen Donald Ross courses in the Carolinas. Frequent *Carolinas Golf* contributor Lee Pace recently made a “pilgrimage” to Royal Dornoch Golf Club in Scotland to see how the architect’s roots influenced his designs.



I powered on my laptop computer, sitting at a small desk in a hotel room alongside the first hole of Royal Dornoch Golf Club. Out the window behind me lay the rumpled ground, the golden whins, the odd rabbit scooting across the fairway, the symphony of puffy clouds, and sunlight in the distance. Eighteen holes down, a spot of lunch, and then 18 more later in the day. I opened an e-mail from a friend who happens to belong to a North Carolina club with a terrific 1920s vintage Donald Ross golf course.

“Ever been to Dornoch?” I asked, figuring that most every paid-in-full member of a Ross course would have made the pilgrimage to Ross’s birthplace and the incubator of his design genius.

“No, I’ve been to St. Andrews and some of the British Open courses but never made it that far north. I’m jealous,” he answered.

“Do it,” I told him. “You won’t regret it.”

My words were essentially the same message that Ross himself delivered many years ago when speaking of the tiny village, the ancient links course, and the golf-intensive atmosphere in this nook of the northeast Highlands of Scotland:

“Modesty forbids me saying more than Dornoch is the most beautifully situated links in the world, and that no American golfer should omit to go there, where he will find the best golf, a royal welcome and no rabble.”

Americans limiting their Scottish excursions to the trophy courses of the British Open rota — St. Andrews, Turnberry, Troon, Muirfield, and the like — are missing the experience of their lives if they let Dornoch’s remote location — some 200 miles north of the capital city of Edinburgh — spook them from the effort.

The journey is part of the charm. The A9 highway snakes its way northward through the middle of Scotland, skirting villages like Killiecrankie and Kingussie, beneath the barren mountain peaks and alongside the salmon- and mussel-rich River Tay. Sheep chew their cud in a pasture to the left, acres of blazing yellow rapeseed scream from the right. Castles and cathedrals and whisky distilleries dot the landscape.

“If you want charm and challenge and 18 perfect holes, Dornoch is it,” says Chris Surmonte, a New Jersey native who moved to Dornoch



in the late 1990s and runs an excellent restaurant in town called Luigi's. "You come all the way up here and you're rewarded — the views, the village, the golf. Dornoch has it all."

"No other links has quite the ageless aura Dornoch does," says architect Pete Dye, who visited Dornoch at the suggestion of Pinehurst's Richard Tufts in the early 1960s. "When you play it, you get the feeling you could be living just as easily in the 1800s, or even the 1700s."

There are some three dozen Donald Ross courses in the Carolinas, many of them premier private clubs in cities and mid-sized towns that brought Ross in from Pinehurst in the 1920s as golf was bounding in popularity and a healthy American economy had plenty of juice to fund new course construction.

Even the most casual student of Ross' designs can see the influence of the domed shape of many of Dornoch's greens, the intricate contours of the fairways and green surrounds, and the utter lack of anything looking forced or fake throughout 18 holes. That Ross was smitten with Pinehurst upon seeing its sandy soil and did some of his finest work there — Pinehurst No. 2, Pine Needles, and Mid Pines, for example — is of no

surprise upon absorbing the Dornoch context.

"Donald Ross was particularly attracted to the soil conditions in Pinehurst, as they reminded him of the old links land at home," Tufts said. "Even our native wire grass seemed to remind him of the whins he knew in Scotland."

The best vantage point for the Dornoch experience is the Royal Golf Hotel, where the front door is about 50 paces from the first tee. The lounge has nearly a thousand bag tags from golf courses around the world pinned to eaves above the bartender's area — and one from Pinehurst is front and center. The Royal Golf is comfortable and convenient if your desire is to play Dornoch only; it's also an excellent headquarters to explore the Highlands region and other ancient gems like Nairn or Brora, not to mention an excellent new course outside

Inverness, Castle Stuart, site of the 2011 Scottish Open.

Golf was played in Dornoch as early as 1616, and the links are a combination of ideas from Old Tom Morris, who visited from St. Andrews in 1886, supposedly with a 14-year-old Donald Ross watching in the background; John Sutherland, the club secretary for nearly

“No other
links has quite
the ageless aura
Dornoch does.”
—Pete Dye

six decades, one of young Donald's mentors and a respected authority in British golf circles; Ross himself, who remodeled the first and second holes during a 1921 visit from the States; and some combination of greenkeepers and a former British Open champion named George Duncan, who added several new holes to the north end of the course after World War II.

Dornoch is laid out in typical links fashion, with roughly half the course stretching in one direction, a 180-degree turn, and the remaining holes running opposite back toward home. Holes one through eight flow north-to-northeast, then nine through 16 head south, with 17 and 18 tucked into the interior of the course. The two dominant landforms are the Dornoch Firth, which sits to the east of the course and village, and a ridge that bisects the layout, with holes three through eight sitting above it and nine through 15 running below it. The slope of the ridge from high to low is covered by whins and gorse that explode in yellow from late spring through the summer.

The challenge is to negotiate the wind, aim tee shots properly to run out on the taut fairways, and avoid at all costs the deep, oval shaped bunkers with the layered-sod walls.

"The course changes every day," says assistant pro Gary Dingwell. "The wind changes, the playing conditions change. It's fair but difficult. For the higher handicap, it's hard to lose a ball until you hit into the gorse bushes. For the scratch golfer, you have to position yourself off the tee to have the right angle to the green. But that's not easy because of the way the wind might be blowing. Every day is a new challenge."

Those challenges were never far from the mind of Ross, whose work remains relevant today in a golf world encumbered with expensive courses manufactured from bland landscapes built to accommodate 320-yard tee balls.

"Surely no one can forget the feeling of joy after placing his second shot on the plateau greens on the fourth or eighth at Dornoch, my old home course, one of the best and most enjoyable courses in the world," Ross said.

It's a feeling you won't find, though, tooling around the famous courses down south. The A9 north to Dornoch, that's the ticket.



▶ St. Andrews, 17th hole

GET OUT OF TOWN

PerryGolf Offers Access to the World's Top Links

/ written by BILL F. HENSLEY

In a small, quiet office on Eastwood Road, away from Wilmington, N.C.'s business district, three people go about their duties — making telephone calls, sending e-mails, and handling correspondence.

Their work looks innocuous, but looks can be deceiving. This is the U.S. home of PerryGolf, a golf tour operator. Each year the company books thousands of golfers on individual and group tours to a dozen international destinations.

Founded in 1984 by Gordon Dalglish and his brother Colin, PerryGolf also has offices in Scotland, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Capetown, and Singapore. They design and manage golf excursions to Scotland, Ireland, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, China, and more.

The Dalglish brothers were born in Scotland, not far from St. Andrews. Both played college golf in the U.S. — Gordon at William and Mary; Colin at Ohio State. Gordon, who runs the Wilmington office, is a former *Golf Magazine* panelist and a founder and director of the American Junior Golf Association.

"Most of our staff are based around the world," Gordon says. "That's where much of the work is done, with the golf courses, hotels, and cruise lines we represent."

PerryGolf will provide service for nearly 3,000 golfers this year. If you want to play at St. Andrews, tour South Africa's great courses, take a barge cruise through

Provence, attend the British Open or Ryder Cup (and play some renowned courses before or after the events), tee it up at Mission Hills in China, or take a group to Ireland, PerryGolf can handle all arrangements — from tee times and accommodations to local transportation, sightseeing excursions, and international air travel.

For guided tours, U.S. travelers coming from various cities usually arrive at the same airport. They are met by a PerryGolf tour manager and often a concierge driver, then are transported to a top hotel — and later to a famous course, where their green fees have been paid, shoes shined, golf clubs unpacked, and a caddie is waiting.

Got a dream course on your "bucket" list? Visit perrygolf.com or call (800) 344-5257.

If You Go:

▶ Although there are services that can renew passports in 1-2 days for a premium fee, it's best to get your passport in order well in advance. Exchange rates rise and fall. When compared to the Euro, the U.S. dollar has been relatively steady this year. But travelers shouldn't try and time the currency market. Don't let a currency fluctuation of a few dollars delay your trip of a lifetime.

BUYER BEWARE

COUNTERFEIT GOLF CLUBS FLOOD

THE MARKET / written by BOB SELIGMAN

We often pay close attention to things that are so clone-like that's it hard to separate them. Take identical twins, for instance. Or in advertising, we've been asked, "Is it live, or is it Memorex?"

The same holds true in golf club manufacturing, where the differences between "black market" counterfeit clubs and those of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are often so imperceptible it takes an expert to squeeze out the differences — creating a problem that's striking at the very sole ... er ... soul of the golf industry.

Meanwhile, innocent consumers purchasing the counterfeits, primarily off the Internet, are getting the (sometimes wrong) shaft.

Wayne Mack of the Golf Manufacturers Anti-Counterfeiting Working Group, says the problem is widespread: It's estimated that 2 million counterfeit clubs are produced worldwide annually. "If you laid down every counterfeit club on the ground end to end, it would stretch from Bethpage Black all the way to Pebble Beach, and back again — more than 5,000 miles," Mack says.

China is the primary country of origin of the counterfeits, as it has been for a long time. Fakes are also coming from Vietnam and Thailand. Mack says the golf club counterfeit black market is now annually in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

"With the money being spent on counterfeit golf equipment," says Mack, "I could treat every single person in Charlotte, N.C., to a round of golf eight times and still have enough left over to buy each person something cold in the clubhouse afterwards."

What's really cold is the frosty feelings in the golf industry toward counterfeiting. "This isn't a brand issue. It's an honesty issue, it's a quality issue, and in some cases, it's a safety issue," Mack says.

"This is also a trademark issue," adds Mack. "These are not knockoffs we're talking about, they're fakes ... being sold and advertised as genuine, authentic products illegally using the trademarks of golf manufacturers. They're designed to intentionally fool people. When people order counterfeits they usually think they're getting a great deal on great clubs. In reality, they're getting ripped off."



To help educate consumers, the Anti-Counterfeiting Working Group launched a website (keepgolfreal.com) that contains information on how to spot a counterfeit and what to do if you think you bought one. Leading golf club manufacturers also have helpful information on their own websites.

The group is taking a proactive approach. "We've worked with law enforcement officials in China to conduct raids," says Mack. "But education is even more important. It's critical that we keep educating golfers on the risks and pitfalls associated with these clubs."

Education still may not prevent consumers from always being able to tell what's the original and what's the scam. The font may be off in the OEM's name on a club, or the color may be off slightly.

"Visually it's very difficult to spot a counterfeit," says Mack. "Somebody who's really trained can look at it and recognize it, but unless you have (authentic) clubs in your hand, it's very difficult."

Some differences are not on the outside, but on the inside. Once you start teeing them up, the playability of the clubs may be another tip-off. They're often made with cheap materials like crude aluminum and low-grade titanium rather than high-tech composites and alloys used in authentic clubs.

"Trying to play with these clubs is like trying to play with a piece of scrap metal that's in the shape of a club," says Mack, adding that shafts can shatter and heads may fly off.

Getting your money back or being able to return the clubs can be daunting. For all the wrongs counterfeiters inflict on golfers, it leaves the victims with very few rights. "Unfortunately, once the clubs have been purchased, the buyer's options are limited," says Mack. "If they bought the clubs with a credit card, they can try and dispute the charges. If they purchased online, they can report the incident to the Internet Crime Compliance Center at ic3.gov. Ultimately, though, it's about doing something ahead of time."

In the end, maybe it's just about using common sense.

"A brand-new driver just out on the market shouldn't be available for purchase at half the price. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," warns Mack. "The only way to be sure a discount is legitimate is to buy from an authorized dealer."

➤ Bob Seligman is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

2011 CGA Championship Schedule*

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

NOTE

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

In His Father's Footsteps

HARVEY MATCHES DAD'S FEAT TO
CAPTURE 97TH CAROLINAS AMATEUR

Scott Harvey of Greensboro, N.C.,
fulfilled a lifelong dream by matching his
dad's accomplishment to win the 97th
Carolinas Amateur championship.

The 33-year-old edged three golfers by two strokes. The championship was conducted July 14-17 at The Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"This is the premiere amateur event in the southeast with a great list of champions, including my dad," said Harvey. "Knowing my dad won this as well is just incredible."

Harvey phoned his father, Bill, right after the trophy presentation. "Because Dad is not real good on a computer, my brother kept him up with the final round. Dad knew I'd won by the time I called. He was really proud."

The senior Harvey won countless amateur events, including three Carolinas Amateurs (1964, 1965, and 1973). In the past four months, Scott has claimed the Carolinas Four-Ball (with Patrick Brady), the North Carolina Open, and the Carolinas Amateur. Bill Harvey also won each of these events. Scott finished runner-up in the Carolinas Amateur last year,

Scott noted that a four-round stroke-play tournament carried a bit more prestige than a match-play event. "In match play, every round is like the final round of a tournament. That's a lot of pressure. But over four rounds of stroke play, the best players at the time usually are at the top."

Even though The Dunes is one of his father's favorite courses, Scott had not seen the Robert Trent Jones layout before the Carolinas Amateur.

"I had been playing really well for a while this summer, and I had been contending in tournaments on all kinds of courses," he said. "I won't say that The Dunes really fit my game, but there is not a bad hole on the course. I was not hitting the ball really well on Thursday, but by Saturday I put it all together."



CAROLINAS AMATEUR 2012

► **Top-30 places and ties are exempt into the 2012 Carolinas Amateur Championship**, which will be played at Charlotte Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. The Carolinas Amateur is open to any male amateur golfer who is at least 13 years of age, is a legal resident of either North Carolina or South Carolina, is a member in good standing at a CGA member club, and has a USGA Handicap Index of 5.4 or less. For additional championship information, qualifying sites, history, and hole-by-hole scoring, visit carolinasgolf.org.

Devil in a *Blue Suit*

LISA WEISTART RECALLS LIFE AS A DUKE MASCOT

/ written by BOB SELIGMAN

She could be seen, but not seen. Her presence was obvious, yet unless you had X-ray vision, you probably couldn't tell it was former Adams Golf spokesperson **Lisa Weistart** standing in front of the fans known as Cameron Crazies.

Yet there she was, front and center, virtually hidden behind a fiberglass-molded, foam-encased head. A leotard body fit over football pads further cloaked her identity. Her only window to the world was a limited view out of the head's mouth.

And even though the stench inside the head — which couldn't be cleaned — got so bad she used stick-on air fresheners for relief, this was where Weistart wanted to be.

Oh, did she ever want to be there!

During Duke University's championship basketball seasons in 1991 and 1992, Weistart was the Duke Blue Devil mascot, leading the cheers at Cameron Indoor Stadium as well as at Duke football games.

"I grew up in Durham and was a life-long Duke fan," says Weistart, who bleeds Duke blue to the core. "Duke was the only school I ever wanted to attend." Her father graduated from Duke and has been a professor there for more than 40 years.

"During the end of my sophomore year, I found out there were open tryouts (for the mascot), as long as I met basic height requirements," Weistart says.

Her audition — a six-minute exercise called "A Day In The Life Of The Blue Devil" — included getting an "A" on a paper about "How To Beat A Tar Heel," and (of course) a grand finale featuring Queen's "We Are the Champions."

Weistart was also a champion, becoming one of two mascots that season.

"I thought they would never select me," says Weistart, who graduated in 1992. "They had never selected a female before (there has since been another female mascot). I had to try out each year as there was no guarantee of keeping the position. Luckily they thought I was good enough to keep the job."

Which meant she had some unique experiences — like traveling to Tokyo with the football team for the Coca-Cola Bowl and being on the floor to witness "the shot."

Ah, yes. THE SHOT. Christian Laettner's shot. March 28, 1992. Duke vs. Kentucky.



NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament East Regional Final. Possibly the greatest college basketball game ever played.

"I hate to admit this, but all of us — cheerleaders, band members, support staff — probably went into that game thinking we were going to win," says Weistart.

"After regulation ended in a tie, I felt like I couldn't breathe. I actually left the court for a few minutes before overtime started just so I could take the head off for a moment and collect myself," adds Weistart. "Once the overtime started, we were all so nervous we could barely even cheer at the timeouts."

Kentucky led 103-102 with 2.1 seconds left in overtime. Grant Hill of Duke fired a full-court pass to Laettner standing at the opposite foul line. Laettner leaped, caught the ball, dribbled once, and shot.

"Swish" at the buzzer! Duke 104, Kentucky 103. The Blue Devils would go on to win their second consecutive NCAA Championship.

Sitting under the basket, Weistart saw it all through a Blue Devil's mouth. "I really didn't hold out much hope with 2.1 seconds left. When I saw the shot go in, I had to look around for everyone else's reaction to make sure it actually went in before the buzzer. As soon as I knew we had won, I ran and jumped on top of the pile of players in mid-court. It was truly a moment I'll never forget."

Which left the mascot feeling anything but blue. "I wouldn't have traded that experience for the world."

Writer's note: Ruffin Beckwith, the former executive director of both the World Golf Village and Golf 20/20, is another former Duke mascot.

➤ **Bob Seligman** is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

Devil in a *Blue Suit*

LISA WEISTART RECALLS LIFE AS A DUKE MASCOT

/ written by BOB SELIGMAN

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➤ **Fig. 1:** Early release adds unwanted loft or spin.



➤ **Fig. 2:** A lag can create distance and control.

Down the Middle

SOLVING 'EARLY RELEASE' ADDS CONTROL — AND DISTANCE

/ written by BILL SAMPSON / illustrations by KEVIN FALES

Old Tabby Links has hosted the 1994 Carolinas Mid-Amateur championship, won by Carolinas Golf Hall of Famer Paul Simson. Old Tabby also has held three South Carolina Opens by the Carolinas PGA.

The winners of these tournaments will say that keeping your tee ball in play is a must. Old Tabby has tree-lined fairways, and eight of the holes that require a driver have water hazards on them.

The swing flaw I see the most is an early release or a scooping (**Figure 1**). This usually is caused by guiding the ball or trying to gain loft off the tee. Early release — known as “casting” — happens when wrist angles (or hinge) that were made during the backswing are lost in the downswing.

Early release adds loft to the club, which results in loss of power and too much spin on the ball. When a player has too much spin, the result is either a hook or a slice off a driver. The swing path usually is an outside to inside path.

There are physical reasons that compel a player to scoop, such as a lack of flexibility between the upper and lower body. This can make a player unwind his shoulders and hips together in the downswing.

Ideally, you should lead the downswing with your lower body to create separation between the upper and lower body. This move — known as a ‘lag swing’ — allows you to keep the club on the correct path and create more distance and control (**Figure 2**).

+ Getting Separation

Try this drill to help accomplish separation. Get into your golf posture, then place both feet together before you make a backswing by moving your leading (toward the target) foot toward your back foot. When making your backswing, begin stepping toward your target. It is important to sequence this movement correctly — step and backswing together. Then rapidly change directions with the club and make a full forward swing around a stable front side (**Figure 3**).

+ Encouraging Lag-Time

To work on a later release, try this lag drill. Take a driver with head cover still on and



➤ **Fig. 3:** Practice getting separation by stepping toward the target while making a backswing.



➤ **Fig. 4:** To practice a lag, drag your driver through the impact position with the head cover still on.

place it on the ground about two feet behind the ball. Drag the driver through impact keeping your hands leaning forward (**Figure 4**). This will give you the sensation of lag through the impact of your swing.

A poorly fit club or a driver with insufficient loft can also lead to early release, as you scoop in an attempt to increase loft to get the ball in the air. Try a driver with more loft. Or maybe on a tight hole, try using a 3-wood because of the increased loft.

➤ **Bill Sampson** is the PGA Director of Golf at Spring Island Club, home of Old Tabby Links. Go to springisland.com for more information.

Getting On the Same Page

WHY YOU SHOULD READ THE LOCAL RULES SHEET

/ written by ANDY PRIEST / illustration by KEVIN FALES

If you've participated in a CGA tournament, one thing is for certain:

You have received a rules sheet prior to play. These informational pieces cover important details such as tournament format, out of bounds, water hazards, and ground under repair.

Some rules are standard policies that apply from event to event. But others are "local rules" that pertain only to the specific golf course or event.

The million-dollar question is: "Do you read your local rules sheet?" Most of the time that answer is "No."

During our annual training seminar, CGA rules officials are taught the following credo:

1. Players never read the rules sheet.
2. A rules official must always carry a rules sheet.
3. See item No. 1.

We teach this to be somewhat funny. In reality, it is the truth.

To prove a point, when the 2004 Carolinas Amateur was held at the Country Club of North Carolina, we strategically placed a sentence within the local rules sheet informing each competitor that he could enter his name in a drawing at the scoreboard to win a free wedge following the first round. At the player social that night, we reached into a basket to pull out the winner's name. Guess what? Not a single person's name was entered out of 130+ players in the event! Too bad ... it was a nice wedge.

It's amazing to count the number of rulings asked to be made at a tournament when the answer is found easily on that 8.5 x 11-inch sheet of paper. "Is that road out of bounds?" "Do I get a free drop from this sod area?" "Is there a drop zone on



this hole?" The answers are right there at your fingertips.

Rules sheets are important documents as they relate to a golf tournament, whether it is a club member-guest or the U.S. Open Championship. When it comes to CGA events, we prepare rules sheets to make sure everyone is "on the same page" at that competition.

Remember what happened to Dustin Johnson at the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits? He admitted to not reading the local rules sheet, especially the part regarding

bunkers. A terrible outcome for Johnson, but hopefully a wake-up call for all golfers.

At your next tournament, take a couple of minutes to read the rules sheet. It's really for your own good. And you never know when the next free wedge drawing may be offered.

You can read suggested local rules for your club's events on the CGA website at carolinasgolf.org/Content/club_local_rules.asp?navID=13.

➤ **Andy Priest** is the CGA's Director of Tournament and Internet Operations.