

carolinasgolf

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE of the Carolinas Golf Association

Fall 2012

CGA REUNION

PINE NEEDLES TO HOST OCTOBER STAY AND
PLAY FOR INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER



- **PAR AND PARANORMAL**
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- **UP AND DOWN BATTLES**
HOW TO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE FROM A BAD LIE



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to professional.

> Pine Needles, Hole No. 5

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Pine Needles is hosting the CGA's first-ever “Reunion.” Photos courtesy of the CGA and the course.



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Anyone for an Emergency ... 18?

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

> The days are getting shorter. Daylight hours are dwindling. The heat of the day is no longer quite as intense as it was.

Fall is approaching, and we will be trying to squeeze our rounds of golf into a slowly narrowing window of opportunity. Entreaties such as, "Anyone for an emergency nine?" may be given more serious consideration at this time of the season.

In fact, it was at about this time of the year, many years ago, that I was first offered such an invitation, and it came from my dad. We had just returned to our Nebraska home from a long, cross-country drive to visit my mother's family in Virginia. As we were unloading the car, Dad asked if I was interested in going out and playing some golf when we finished. He said we would play as long as the daylight would let us play. Of course I was interested, even though I thought we could finish only nine or 10 holes, at most, before dark.

On the way to the club, Dad suggested we take a cart, because it might allow us to play a few more holes. In 1960 taking a cart wasn't as common as it is today (more on that another time). I quickly agreed ... the idea was getting better by the minute.

I have always enjoyed being on a golf course in the early evening. The brisk breezes of the afternoon often lay down a bit as the sun sets. The lengthening shadows reveal irregularities of surface that are hidden in the bright light of midday. The skies, and the clouds in it, begin to glow in a slowly changing palette. Even the sounds change, as the night creatures begin to stir. Despite these attractions, I frequently find that the course is uncrowded at that time of day, thus enhancing the playing experience.

Those were the conditions that late August afternoon as Dad and I went around the course. There were no players in our way to delay our progress, and as we finished the eighth I realized that we were going to get in more than just nine holes. As we moved through the back nine I felt there was a chance we actually could complete the round. We weren't rushing. Without distractions, we were able to play freely and nearly effortlessly. I found that most of my shots were coming off as planned, and that, with the cart, we were able to get quickly to the ball and do it all again.

We did finish the round, completing the eighteenth hole in near darkness, but with enough light left to allow each of us to make par and get to the clubhouse. It was there, as we enjoyed a snack and something to drink, that I confirmed what I had known to be happening on the course for the previous two and one-half hours. I had broken 80 for the first time! I actually had gotten around in 78. Dad knew that it was happening, too, but we didn't discuss it out there. We were merely trying to get in an "emergency 18." We were just playing the game and enjoying each other's company.

So, if you are asked, "Would you like to play an emergency nine?" go ahead. Take him or her up on the invitation. Or, if you are inclined to do so, ask a friend, or a loved one, to join you for a few extra holes. You probably will enjoy an evening of memorable golf. You could even create some memories that last a lifetime.

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NEWS & NOTEWORTHY EVENTS AROUND THE CAROLINAS

› **Austin Ernst**, the CGA's Women's Player of the Year for 2011, added the North and South Championship to her already impressive resume. The native of Seneca, S.C., won the 2011 NCAA individual national championship her freshman season at LSU and then reached the semifinals of the U.S. Amateur.

› **Nadine Marie Gasch-Cybsyske** of Sunset Beach, N.C., died in May. Besides singing in choirs, playing piano and organ, and composing her own music, she was active in the Carolinas golf community. She was a member of the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association and helped form the North Grand Strand (NC) Inter-Club Golf Group. She also served as captain of the CGA's women's course rating team in coastal North Carolina.

› **Campbell (Sonny) Gresham Grant**, of Greensboro, N.C., died in May. The member of the Sedgefield CC since 1956 was an important part of the club community, making many friendships and mentoring young golfers. He also won several club championships, the 1967 CGA North Carolina Amateur, the 1987 CGA Senior Amateur, and the 1988 Willow Creek Seniors Hall of Fame. After his win at the Seniors Hall of Fame, Golf Digest named him the 5th best senior amateur in the nation for 1988.

› **Two-time CGA champion Ben Kohles** (2007 Dogwood State Junior Boys and the 2008 Carolinas Amateur) won the first two web.com events he's entered as a professional. The 22-year-old won the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational in Columbus, Ohio, in late July, then took the Cox Classic in Omaha, Neb., the following weekend. Kohles turned professional just before the Columbus, Ohio event.

› **Matthew Crenshaw** of Burlington, N.C., edged Scott Harvey of Greensboro, 1 up, to win the North Carolina Amateur Match Play Championship title at Forest Oaks CC in Greensboro. The win marks Crenshaw's fourth CGA title this year (Carolinas Club Championship, Carolinas Four-Ball, and North Carolina Amateur).

› **David Hueber**, a senior executive in the golf industry for more than 25 years, has received a doctorate degree from Clemson University for his breakthrough research regarding sustainable golf course development. Hueber has served as the vice president of marketing at the PGA Tour, president and CEO of the National Golf Foundation, the Ben Hogan Company and Ben Hogan Properties (owner of the Pebble Beach Company). His research found that courses built or renovated during the 1990s may have contributed to the decline in golf participation and rounds played.

What's new in handicapping?

GHIN Handicap Program Coming to CGA Member Clubs

The Carolinas Golf Association is switching membership information services and handicap vendors beginning in 2013. As a result, new handicap and tournament management software will be in use at member clubs.

The new handicap software is called GHIN Handicap Program (GHP) and the new tournament software for CGA clubs is called Tournament Pairing Program (TPP).

The CGA is transitioning to GHIN, the USGA service that already supports 2.2 million golfers at 75 state and regional golf associations.



When the transition is complete CGA golfers will notice a new look for score posting on the posting station at each club. While the look is different, the posting process remains virtually the same with golfers entering their score, the course, the tees played and the date for each round.

"We anticipate getting our clubs onto GHIN by the

end of the year," says Jack Nance, CGA executive director. "Mountain clubs which are closed during the winter months will see the service change in late winter or spring."

Will golfers' handicaps change due to the change of vendors?

No, each golfer's total record of scores will be transferred from the old system to the new GHIN database. Handicap Indexes are updated on the USGA national scheduled of the 1st and 15th of each month just as previously processed.

What is the impact on the golfer?

Each will get a GHIN number, a unique personal identification for posting their scores at their home club, online, and at the 12,700 golf clubs in 43 states utilizing the GHIN handicap system.

Where can golfers post their scores?

Each golfer will be able to post scores:

1. At a posting station or kiosk at the home club,
2. Online (if allowed by the club), using links to the CGA website or home club website, or
3. By downloading a phone app to post scores using smart phones, both Android and iPhone.

How can members stay informed about the transition?

The easiest way is to register your contact information with the CGA. Please visit the CGA website, carolinascgolf.org.

In the green box on the right side of the CGA home page, look in the "My CGA Login/Post Scores" tab and click on "Register." This will bring you to a Golfer Registration page. After you have completed the required information you will begin to receive e-mail handicap updates on the 1st and 15th of the month as well as other important communications from the CGA.

Have other questions about GHIN? Please contact us at ghinsupport@carolinascgolf.org.



BETTER BY THE DOZEN

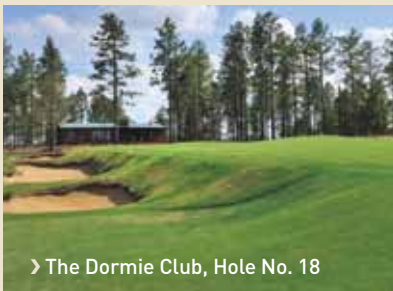
12 Carolinas Courses Make *Golfweek's* Top 100

Golfweek magazine released its "Top 100 You Can Play," and a dozen Carolinas courses are in the mix.

In 2012, Pacific Dunes barely topped Pebble Beach at the head of the class. But according to Joe Passo, *Golfweek's* architecture and course rankings editor, Pinehurst No. 2 is "nipping at Pacific and Pebble's heels." He says the venerable Donald Ross classic surged four spots "thanks to Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw's inspired restoration."

Speaking of Coore and Crenshaw designs, new to the list is The Dormie Club, which enters at 96. Here are the Carolinas courses that made the list, along with the architects:

- No. 3** Pinehurst No. 2 (Donald Ross)
- No. 5** Kiawah Island, Ocean Course (Pete Dye)
- No. 12** Harbour Town Golf Links (Pete Dye)
- No. 27** Caledonia Golf & Fish Club (Mike Strantz)
- No. 47** Dunes Golf & Beach Club (Robert Trent Jones Sr.)
- No. 50** Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club (Donald Ross)
- No. 51** May River Golf Club at Palmetto Bluff (Jack Nicklaus)
- No. 63** Linville Golf Club (Donald Ross)
- No. 86** Barefoot Resort, Love Course (Davis Love III)
- No. 95** Tobacco Road Golf Club (Mike Strantz)
- No. 96** The Dormie Club (Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw)
- No. 97** Pinehurst No. 8 (Tom Fazio)



> The Dormie Club, Hole No. 18

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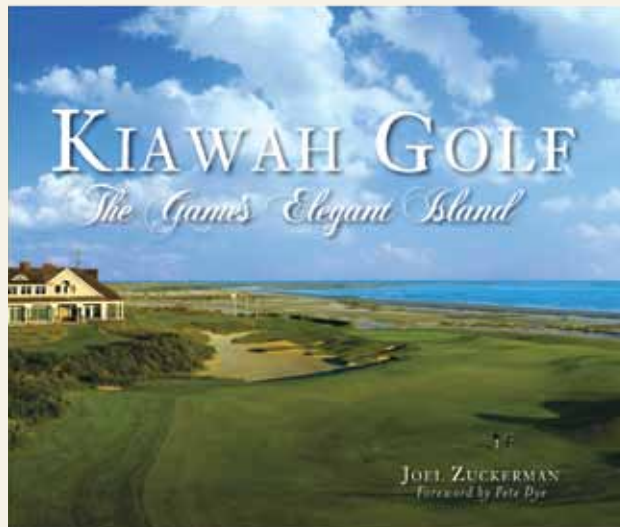
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› **Zuckerman Authors Kiawah Island Book**

Immerse yourself in everything Kiawah Island with *Kiawah Golf: The Game's Elegant Island* by Joel Zuckerman. The book explores the natural beauty of the island, as well as its history through the centuries. Zuckerman tells the story of golf on Kiawah, from the groundbreaking 1991 Ryder Cup that raised the CGA member club's profile among golf fans to the 2012 PGA Championship. The history of the club and the courses is bolstered with profiles of some celebrated names in golf. Zuckerman includes not only the famous Ocean Course at the Kiawah Resort, but also the other four courses there and two excellent courses at the Kiawah Club.

Kiawah Golf: The Game's Elegant Island is available at local stores and online at historypress.net for \$34.99.



› **2012 Symposium On Affordable Golf Agenda Complete**

Southern Pines Golf Club (CGA member) will host the third annual Symposium On Affordable Golf on Oct. 29-30. The event will conclude with a golf outing on the Donald Ross-designed course on Oct. 30. There is no fee for attendance, and PGA, LPGA, and GCSAA members can receive continuing education credits.

The symposium will feature case studies detailing successful and affordable golf operations from different regions of the world. Other events include:

- Former presidents of the USGA and GCSAA, Jim Hyler and Bob Randquist, will lead a discussion on recent trends in course setup.
- Teaching professionals Dana Rader and Bob Zydonik, world-renowned writer James Dodson, and four golfers of varying ages and skills will be featured in the roundtable discussion on "The Golf Generation Gap." They will debate the challenges of making the game attractive to younger generations of golfers.
- Results of "The Golf Experience – Your Way" survey will be also reviewed and discussed. Take the survey at symposiumonaffordablegolf.com.

Visit symposiumonaffordablegolf.com and follow the "Register" link on the homepage to reserve your place.



› **Dana Rader**



› **James Dodson**



› **More Kudos for The Sea Pines Resort**

Harbour Town Golf Links at the Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head, S.C., was named No. 4 on the "Platinum List" for *Celebrated Living*, the official publication of American Airlines Premium Class passengers. The Pete Dye design has garnered attention recently, including being ranked No. 2 in "Top 10 PGA Courses" in a recent survey of PGA Tour players.

"We're once again flattered on how highly thought of Harbour Town is in the eyes of the world," says Cary Corbitt, director of the sports division for Sea Pines.

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› Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, No. 18

HOT ON THE (WACCAMAW) TRAIL

GREAT LOWCOUNTRY GOLF ON THE HAMMOCK COAST / written by TIM GAVRICH

When people think of Myrtle Beach, the first words that come to mind are along the lines of “glitzy,” “crowded,” or perhaps “bustling.” “Golf” probably comes to mind too. After all, millions of visitors come and go (and sometimes stay forever) over the course of a year to visit the beaches and play golf. A lot of golf.

But the 60-plus mile contiguous stretch known as the Grand Strand is not homogeneously “Myrtle Beach” in this sense. The southern end — a mere 25 miles south of Myrtle Beach International Airport — has a relaxed, refined, quieter *métier*. Known as the Hammock Coast, it boasts many of the best public golf courses

on the Strand. Those golf courses comprise the acclaimed Waccamaw Golf Trail.

“The Trail is more relaxed than central Myrtle Beach, with short drives to the courses,” says Art Stipo, a retired computer programmer from Wilmington, Del.

Since his first trip to Myrtle Beach in 1978, Stipo has played every publicly accessible course in the region. In that time, he has become familiar with the area, especially the 16-mile swath of land that houses the Waccamaw Golf Trail. He says the trail “contains more premium golf experiences” than any other portion of Myrtle Beach’s golf scene.

Stipo cites four Waccamaw Golf Trail courses as “outstanding:” TPC at Myrtle Beach, Heritage Club, True Blue Plantation, and — his favorite on the entire Grand Strand — Caledonia Golf and Fish Club.

“It’s a great, fun course and absolutely gorgeous,” Stipo says. The likes of *Golfweek* magazine tend to agree, ranking it the third best public or resort course in the state.

The late designer Mike Strantz’s first course, Caledonia is equal parts golf adventure and arboretum, with cavernous, white bunkers, and large undulating greens.

Caledonia’s sister course, Strantz’s True Blue



› TPC at Myrtle Beach, No. 17



► Pawleys Plantation, a Jack Nicklaus Signature design, winds its way through tidal marshland.

Plantation, is a sweeping, scrubby brute that is as fun to play as it is difficult to tame.

The laid-back attitude of the Waccamaw Golf Trail extends to the rest of its courses, from the venerable Willard Byrd-designed Litchfield Country Club (circa 1966) to the chic Tom Fazio/Lanny Wadkins TPC at Myrtle Beach layout, which hosted the 2000 Senior Tour Championship shortly after it opened.

Other golf legends have left their marks here. Pawleys Plantation, a 1988 Jack Nicklaus

Signature design, features two of the Trail's most grippingly scenic holes. Both par 3s on its inward nine, the 13th and the 17th, require gutsy iron shots over expansive tidal marsh that separates the mainland from Pawleys Island.

Gary Player lent his hand to Blackmoor Golf Club, the trail's northernmost outpost and favorite stop of Cecelia Barksdale, who works at nearby River Club. "Every hole is different; the back nine especially is gorgeous. Plus, I have the course record there."

Barksdale's record, by the way, is a 71 — an awesome round turned in by the 6-handicapper. She praises the layout for its women-friendliness due to appropriate length and a relatively few elevated greens.

Green fees fluctuate throughout the year, rewarding visitors who are willing to brave the heat of the summer or don a sweater in the winter with low rates and relatively uncrowded golf courses.

The surrounding environment reinforces the relaxed, refined atmosphere. Fine restaurants like Frank's in Pawleys Island and The Rice Paddy in Georgetown are two of South Carolina's best-regarded spots. And Murrells Inlet boasts a number of restaurants that feature locally-sourced oysters, clams, shrimp, grouper, and other delights.

"The Hammock Coast is more residential and not as hectic as Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach," says Barksdale. "It's more like a normal town; we just happen to have an ocean nearby."

For more information, visit MyGolfTrail.com or call (800) 661-2928.

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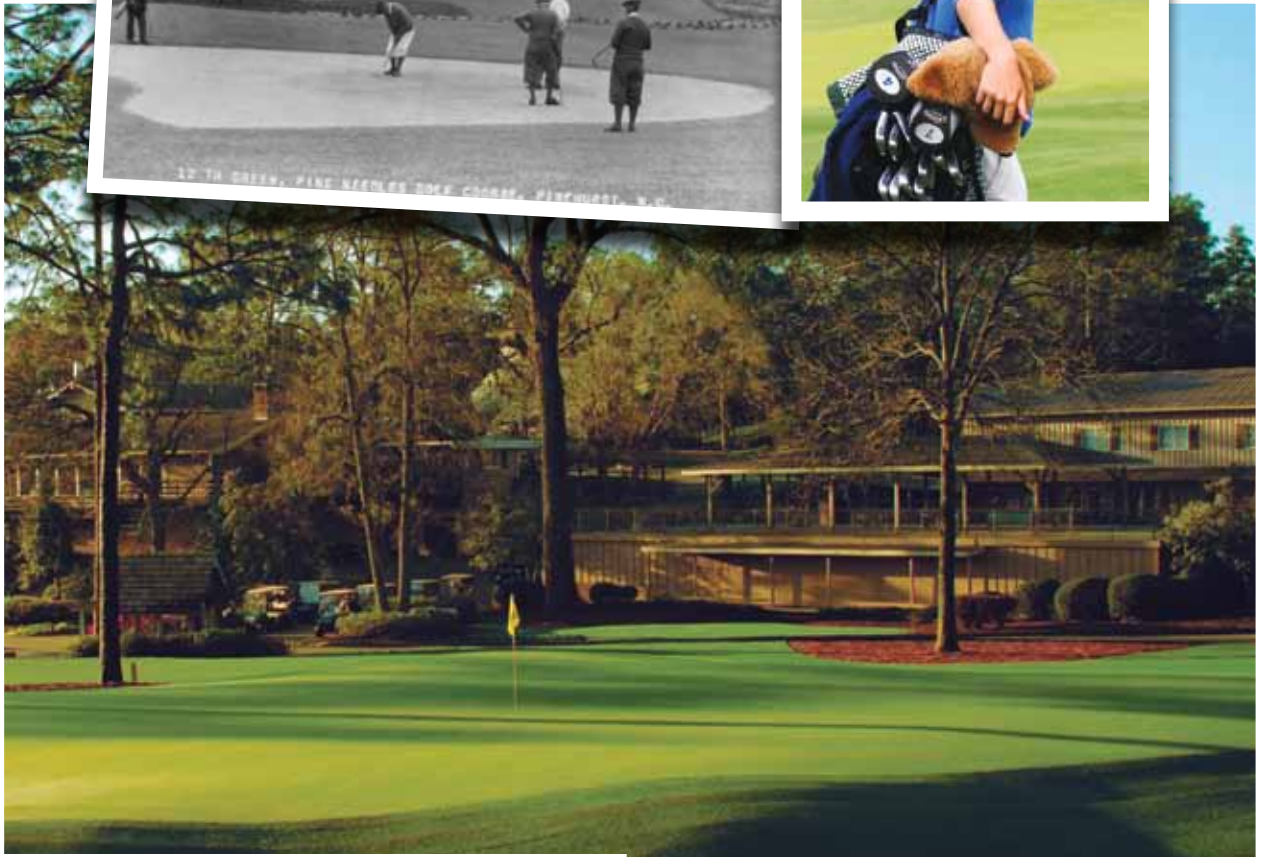
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Stay and Play at The Reunion

PINE NEEDLES TO HOST CGA's INAUGURAL OCTOBER FUNDRAISER

The Carolinas Golf Association is kicking off its second 100 years of golf in style — and CGA members and the public are invited to join in the fun. **Pine Needles Resort is hosting “The Reunion” golf event to raise much-needed funds for the Carolinas Golf Foundation and to celebrate CGA members past and present, from amateur to professional.**

The two-day event, Oct. 21-22, will feature social activities, a banquet, lodging, and more. Plus, there's a chance to stay in historic lodging and play two classic Donald Ross courses — Mid Pines and Pine Needles (see page 16).

“This is a reunion of all golfers who want to give back — both pros and amateurs — to the betterment of golf,” says CGA Executive Director Jack Nance. “This is the first time we have ever done such an event, but we're hoping it becomes a premier annual event to celebrate golf in the Carolinas and our Foundation.”

In 1977, the CGA formed the CGF as a 501(c)(3) organization to provide funds to sustain and support the golf industry in North Carolina and South Carolina. It has raised more than \$1.5 million for some 40 separate organizations — from junior golf and turfgrass

scholarships to disabled golfers (see page 16).

The CGF has been successful for many years but some of the funding is drying up. This event is designed to initiate a proactive effort to maintain financial support of the many Carolinas-based golf programs.

“We have been there to support so many groups, and this will hopefully help us maintain our level of Foundation giving,” says Charles Lynch, chairman of the CGF.

The Reunion is expected to attract notable CGA alumni and fans, including former and current PGA Tour players such as XM/Sirrius radio's John Maginnes, Mike Goodes, David Eger, and others.

Playing spots at the Reunion range from \$750 - \$1,000 per person based on the package purchased. And golf companies will see an

advantage to becoming a title sponsor to host clients and be a part of this first-ever event. The fee is mostly tax deductible.

All guests will receive VIP treatment and early arriving guests on Sunday can opt for bonus golf at Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club (limited space available for late morning/early afternoon tee times). Check-in will be at Pine Needles Main Lodge in the afternoon, and there will be an open bar cocktail party and dinner at Pine Needles Main Lodge on Sunday night.

After a breakfast on Monday morning, The Reunion Tournament will be held on Pine Needles' golf course, host of three U.S. Women's Opens. An awards luncheon follows golf.

For details, visit reuniongolftournament.org.

Play Along With Current and Former CGA/PGA Tour Friends

At press time, several professional golfers have signed up to play The Reunion. Player updates are available at reuniongolftournament.org. Here are a few confirmed attendees:

► **John Maginnes** spent more than a decade and a half playing professional golf. The former PGA Tour player has been an on-course commentator at USA Network and has been hosting the *Maginnes On Tap* program on XM Radio since March 2011.

› **David Eger** competes on the Champions Tour, and has two CGA Championships to his credit. He has worked for the PGA Tour (as Director of Tournament Administration, 1982-92; and Vice President of Competition, 1995-96) and the USGA (Senior Director of Rules and Competition, 1992-1995). He won the 1988 U.S. Mid-Amateur and the North and South Amateur in 1991, was a member of the winning Walker Cup team three times, and was a two-time semi-finalist in the U.S. Amateur.

› **Mike Goodes** won six CGA Championships and turned professional in 2007. He finished 5th at the 2007 Champions Tour Q-School, which allowed him to open qualify for tour events again in 2008, eventually earning his tour card for 2009. He won his first event in 2009 at the Allianz Championship in Boca Raton, Florida.

› **Clarence Rose** is a former CGA champion, winning the North Carolina Amateur in 1978. The Clemson University alum went on to successful careers on the PGA and Nationwide Tours, winning once on the PGA Tour (1996 Sprint International) and once on the Nationwide Tour (1995 NIKE Pensacola Classic).

About the Resort

For nearly a century, Pine Needles and Mid Pines Resort's two 18-hole Donald Ross courses have made the resort a destination for guests — and USGA Championships — to return to time and again.

The Mid Pines Inn is a stately Georgian-style inn, blending modern amenities with eight decades of tradition. Many of the 100-plus rooms feature original antiques. The Lodge at Pine Needles features more than 70 recently renovated sleeping rooms, banquet facilities, and chalet style lodges. On-property amenities include extensive practice facilities, grass tennis courts, heated pool, game room, and fitness center.



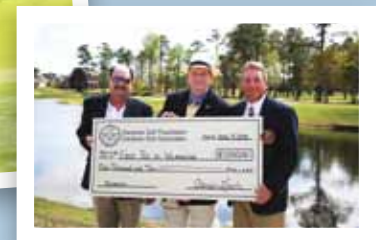
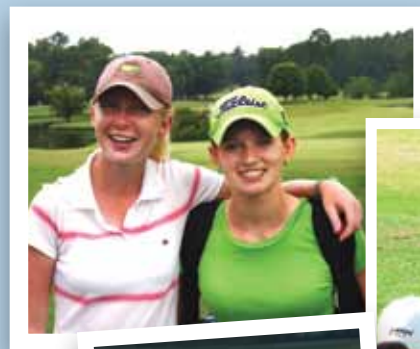
About the Carolinas Golf Foundation

The Carolinas Golf Foundation (CGF) was formed by the Carolinas Golf Association in 1977 to provide support for universities and technical schools involved in golf oriented turfgrass research. For years, it has been funded principally by the CGA in addition to contributions from individual golfers interested in promoting and supporting these programs.

Due to the nature of the economy the CGA's funding has become limited, and The Reunion will hopefully create much-needed additional funding.

For 35 years, the CGF has supported over 40 Carolinas-based golf initiatives including:

- Junior golf programs across the Carolinas, including First Tee chapters, the YMCA, LPGA/USGA, and the Triad Youth Golf Foundation.
- Community golf programs, including the Salvation Army and Challenged Golfers Network.
- Turf research through community colleges, Rounds4Research support, Clemson and NC State scholarships, and more.
- Support for allied Carolinas associations, such as the SCJGA and Women's Carolinas Golf Association.





IN SEARCH OF PAR AND THE PARANORMAL

Grove Park Inn's Legacy of Luxury

/ written by **GARY CARTER**

There just aren't many, if any, four diamond resorts in the country that can offer moonshine and a ghost in addition to a restored Donald Ross golf course, elegant lodging, fine dining, and a world-class spa. But, then again, **the venerable Grove Park Inn is not your run-of-the-mill destination.**

Approaching its 100th anniversary in 2013, the Inn has hosted the humble and high society from its perch on Sunset Mountain above Asheville. Guests have included George Gershwin, Helen Keller, Thomas Edison, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and 10 U.S. presidents.

The original 150-room hotel was envisioned by E.W. Grove, who made his fortune creating concoctions such as Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. He wanted a rustic retreat where the wealthy could escape the summer heat. Built of granite boulders

dug out of the mountain, the Grove Park's opening in 1913 was heralded by newspapers as "the finest resort hotel in the world."

Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Grove Park evolved into a highly regarded, multifaceted destination resort under the stewardship of Charles and Elaine Sammons, who took control in 1955. Now a KSL Resort, the Grove Park features 512 rooms — with 142 in the original main inn — four restaurants featuring local farm-to-table cuisine, four bars and lounges (where moonshine is, indeed, served), a sports complex, a subterranean spa, and, yes, a ghost. The Pink Lady, who roams the halls in a flowing gown, is believed to be the spirit of a woman who either jumped to her death from a fifth floor room or was pushed by her illicit lover in the 1920s.

There's also a gem of a golf course with its own ghosts stalking the fairways. Walter Hagen, Harry Vardon, Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, and Sam Snead are a few of the greats who tangled with the handiwork of revered architect Donald Ross, and didn't always fare well — a plaque on the par 3 seventh hole "honors" an 11 Hogan once carded there.

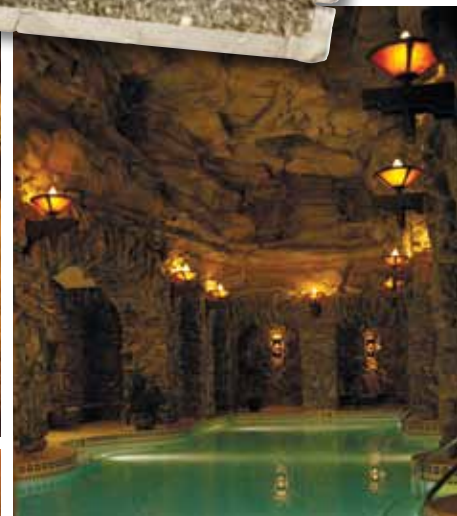


The original layout dates to 1899 when it was home to the Asheville Country Club, which later moved to another nearby Ross-designed course in an unusual property swap. Ross put his touch on the landscape in 1926, leaving behind his characteristic features of bending fairways, strategically placed bunkers, and diabolical greens that prompted Hagen to observe, “There is not a dull hole in the 18.”

There certainly is nothing dull about the action the course witnessed over the decades, including sizeable amounts of money changing hands when top players barnstormed through town in the 1930s-'40s to entertain guests and pick up extra cash.

“The best pros in the world would show up, play exhibition matches, and try to get a little action going,” explains Dal Raiford, former director of golf at Grove Park Inn. “They’d put up flyers around town, charge people 50 cents to watch, and gamble with the big shots in town to cover their bar tabs.”

Side bets added to the action. For local fans, it was an opportunity to get a look at players known during that period mainly through newspaper accounts and grainy



➤ From its perch on Sunset Mountain above Asheville, the Grove Park Inn is counting down to its 100th anniversary in 2013. Amenities at the storied inn include a classic Donald Ross golf course, four restaurants and bars, and a cavernous subterranean spa.



photographs. “They wanted you to come out and watch them play, they wanted side bets, wanted you to ask them for lessons and pick up their room check,” Raiford says. “You had the finest players on the planet doing their damndest to charm folks.”

Asheville also became a regular and popular PGA stop with its Land of the Sky Open, which began in 1933 and ran for nearly 20 years. The Grove Park Inn was one of the local trifecta that hosted the tournament, along with two other Ross designs — Beaver Lake GC (now Country Club of Asheville) and Biltmore Forest CC. The LPGA played tournaments here from 1957 through 1960, with Spartanburg, S.C., native Betsy Rawls winning the last two.

Unfortunately, the course underwent several redesigns over the years that resulted in the changing green heights, redirected fairways, and moved or filled in bunkers. It also was somewhat neglected during the aggressive renewal and expansion of the historic inn, which led the executive director of the Donald Ross Society to declare the resort’s course “best suited for a future goat farm.”

In response, the course was closed in 2001 for a yearlong \$2.5 million restoration entrusted to Kris Spence, a Greensboro-based designer who has gained a reputation for reworking Ross courses.

“We knew we had a curiously wonderful golf course that had a historic context,” says Raiford, who oversaw the project. “But the playability of the course had been impacted over the years, and much of the original Ross design and strategy had been compromised.”

The objective became to deduce the strategy Ross had intended and recreate it while bringing the layout up to modern standards. This included adding length — not an easy task considering the course is tucked compactly on less than 90 acres.

The process was complicated since there were no original drawings or definitive sources from which to draw, other than an aerial photograph found in the Grove Park’s archives that hinted at bunker depths and green shapes. From there, it became an archeological treasure hunt as the team searched the land for clues, and dug to discover fairway perimeters and bunker locations.

Once revealed, the vision of Ross was regained, with the efforts rewarded when *Golfweek* selected the Grove Park project as the top course restoration in the United States for 2002. Additional vindication came when Michael Fay, the Ross Society executive who had criticized the course, delivered his unreserved congratulations. It also has since been selected by *Golf Digest* as one of the country’s top 10 courses 100 years or older.

The Grove Park course has multiple personalities with four sets of tees that provide suitable pleasure and challenge. Local knowledge, by the way, says putts break away from the Inn, often in what appears to be defiance of gravity.

“It’s a wonderful combination to have this very historic and fun golf course, and all the amenities of a truly great resort,” points out Breanne Hall, Grove Park’s PGA head golf professional. “The result is a truly unique and enjoyable experience.”



› The original portion of the Grove Park Inn (above) was built of granite boulders dug out of the mountain. The course layout dates to 1899.

Incidentally, if your game needs brushing up, Hall recently became one of only 57 of the nearly 1,700 female members in the Carolinas PGA who have become certified Class A — training that can take up to four years to complete.

The surrounding area has plenty to offer as well. The Grove Park Inn is just five minutes from Asheville’s lively downtown, an eclectic blend of shops, galleries, bookstores, and a restaurant scene that’s become a renowned foodie heaven. The city is also the reigning Beer City USA and a craft-brewing center where “bottom’s up” is the battle cry. Also close by is the magnificent Biltmore Estate with its 250-room mansion, sprawling gardens, and winery.

But if you’re also looking for a paranormal experience to add some spooky zest to your visit, ask for Room 545 at the Grove Park Inn, which is the domain of the Pink Lady. She’s been known to make her presence felt — and might even shock the yips right out of you.

› Gary Carter is an Asheville area freelance writer.



› Figure 1



› Figure 2



› Figure 3



› Figure 4

Uphill (and Downhill) Battles



HOW TO BECOME AN ESCAPE ARTIST FROM AWKWARD LIES

/ written by DOUG WEAVER / illustration by KEVIN FALES

Five-time PGA Championship winner Walter Hagen at times hit terrible shots that made him angry. **He always got over it and could think clearly before executing his next shot — which often was brilliant.** He expected the best, but was prepared for the worst.

Sidehill lies are a worst-case scenario for many golfers — especially because we rarely practice them. There are ways to prepare for sidehillers, so you also can perform Hagen-like recoveries.

For all shots hit from uneven, sidehill lies, you first must find your balance. Lean on your toes and then shift your weight to your heels. Find a point where your balance point feels like it is under your shoestrings. Make multiple practice swings to allow your body to adjust. And ask someone to watch where your ball goes so you can focus on making solid contact.

Ball Above Feet

Grip down on the club to maintain your basic posture. You may lose distance, so consider using a longer club. The ball flight tends to go in the direction of your body such that right-handers probably will hit the ball to the left. Aim slightly to the right to compensate. Your swing will feel flatter, but trust it — make a confident, controlled swing. (Figure 1)

Ball Below Feet

Take one more club than usual. Because your swing plane will be steeper than normal, avoid letting your weight shift to your toes or you could lose balance and fall forward. The ball will tend to go right for right-handers; aim left of the target. (Figure 2)

Forward Foot Higher than Back

Your backswing will feel easy because your club and body are moving downhill. However, your downswing and follow-through must be exaggerated to help transfer weight to the higher, forward foot. Practice getting to your finish with a normal tempo and rhythm. This shot will fly higher and shorter than usual, so take one club more. (Figure 3)

Forward Foot Lower than Back

This shot can go farther than you imagine. The key is to practice your backswing so that you get the normal weight transfer to your back foot. After impact, your weight

will transfer forward down the hill and you may lose balance. But this is OK. Allow your swing to finish and take a step forward down the hill. (Figure 4)

Fairway and Waste Bunkers

Novices often struggle with a full shot from a fairway or waste bunker. Choose a club with enough loft to get the ball over the lip of the bunker. And remember: Getting out of the bunker is a bigger priority than distance. Visualize hitting the ball first and the sand second; swinging down helps it get airborne.

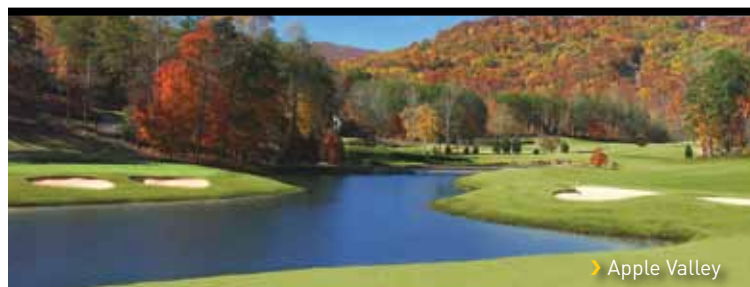
Bank Shots (for Advanced Players)

If your ball ends up close to a tree or other obstacle and you don't have room to take a backswing, here's a Hagen-like shot. If punching out sideways isn't an option, consider hitting the ball off the obstacle to make it deflect toward the target. The key is to eliminate any follow-through. Keep your hands, wrists, and arms soft to avoid injury in case you make impact with the obstacle.

› **Doug Weaver** is a PGA professional and the director of instruction at Palmetto Dunes Resort on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Contact him at (877) 567-6513.

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	Matt Laydon
52nd NC Amateur	Treyburn CC, Durham, N.C.	6/14-17	Matthew Crenshaw
NC Junior (45th Boys, 16th Girls)	Carmel CC, Charlotte, N.C.	6/19-22	Carter Jenkins/Isabella Rusher
56th Carolinas Junior Girls	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	6/26-28	Lucia Polo
6th NC Boys 13 & Under	Asheboro GC, Asheboro, N.C.	7/9-10	Chris Kim
15th Carolinas Women's Amateur Match Play	Cowans Ford CC, Stanley, N.C.	7/10-12	Dawn Woodard
98th Carolinas Amateur	Charlotte CC, Charlotte, N.C.	7/12-15	Carson Young
SC Junior Match Play (35th Boys, 12th Girls)	Lake Marion GC, Santee, S.C.	7/17-20	Carson Young/Morgan Webber
4th Carolinas Super Senior	Mimosa Hills G&CC, Morganton, N.C.	7/18-19	John Walters
46th Twin States Junior Girls	CC of Lexington, Lexington, S.C.	7/24-25	Sydney Legacy
63rd Carolinas Junior (Boys)	CC of SC, Florence, S.C.	7/24-26	Keenan Huskey
46th Carolinas Father-Son	Pinehurst area courses	7/27	Walter/Walt Todd
15th Carolinas Parent-Child	Longleaf CC, Southern Pines, N.C.	7/27	Gary and Elizabeth (Lauren) Robinson
7th Carolinas Pro-Junior	Prestonwood CC, Cary, N.C.	7/30	Jack Fleissner/Alex Hefner
3rd NC Amateur Match Play	Forest Oaks CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/1-5	Matthew Crenshaw
35th Carolinas Women's Four-Ball	Green Valley CC, Greenville, S.C.	8/7-8	Brooke Baker/Lea Venable
8th Dogwood State Junior Championships	Starmount Forest CC, Greensboro, N.C.	8/7-9	Carter Jenkins/Victoria Allred
12th NC Senior Four-Ball	Rolling Hills CC, Monroe, N.C.	8/7-9	Jim Grainger/James Pearson
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	



Rumbling Bald Resort's Apple Valley course to host 14th Carolinas Women's Senior Amateur

The Women's Senior Amateur heads to the Lake Lure area. Noted North Carolina architect Dan Maples designed the Apple Valley course at Rumbling Bald Resort. Lake Lure was recently recognized as one of seven America "classics" by *National Geographic* magazine as part of its "Endless Summer" travel issue.

* Visit carolinascgolf.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.**

The 'Young' Champion

17-YEAR-OLD COMES FROM BEHIND TO CAPTURE 98TH CAROLINAS AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Starting the day in the third to last group wasn't exactly an unexpected position for 17-year old Carson Young— especially as **it was his first time competing in the Carolinas Amateur**. But the high-schooler from Pendleton, S.C., shot a career best final round 7-under 64 to win the 98th Carolinas Amateur Championship.

He started hot Sunday morning at Charlotte Country Club, with birdies on his first three holes.

"I knew I had a chance to finish top three once I got those first three birdies," Young says. He made two more birdies against no bogies for a front nine total of 31 (five under par). "Once I made birdie on Number 8, it was the first time I thought maybe I had a chance to win. Eight had played tough for me all week and with that birdie it gave me some momentum."

Defending champion Scott Harvey was the leader going into the final round. He was 7-under-par and had a three-shot lead on the field. But in the final round, Harvey found the rough and also struggled with his putter.

Young continued his hot July defending his South Carolina Junior Boys Match Play Champion title at Lake Marion Golf Club in Santee, S.C. He also won the The Blade Junior in July, taking three victories in three weeks.

As Young accepted his Carolinas Amateur trophy, he thanked his mom for her support and declared the Carolinas Am as one of his new favorite tournaments. He becomes one of the youngest champions to win the Richard S. Tufts Trophy.

Young was named CGA Junior Boys Player of the Year in 2011, winning among other titles the CGA South Carolina Junior at Sunset Country Club in Sumter. Young also was a member of the winning Carolinas Junior Team in the annual Carolinas-Virginias Junior Boys Team matches.

Young has committed to play collegiate golf at Clemson University upon completing his last year of high school.



ENTER CAROLINAS AMATEUR 2013

› **The top 30 players at this year's Carolinas Amateur have earned exemptions into the 99th Carolinas Amateur Championship.** It will be played July 11-14, 2013 at The Ocean Course in Kiawah Island, S.C., host of this year's PGA Championship. 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.

FANCY FOOTWORK

THE **R**EVOLUTION OF GOLF SHOES / written by ADAM SCHUPAK

Change is afoot in golf footwear, and it all began with what customers affectionately called “the Freddie sneaker.”

At the 2010 Masters, Fred Couples competed sockless, wearing Ecco golf shoes that looked better suited for skateboarding. Instead of plastic spikes, the soles featured tiny nubs or traction bars. It combined the functionality of a golf shoe with the casual comfort of a street shoe.

Consumers took notice of Couples’ California cool. Before long, other prominent players such as Ernie Els, Justin Rose, and Ryan Moore began wearing a shoe fit for the course, the clubhouse, and points in between. What the pros wear on Sunday is what the consumer buys on Monday.

“All hell broke loose thanks to Freddie,” says David Helter, director of sales for Ecco USA’s golf division.

Talk about a spike: Ecco’s street line grew from zero percent of its business in 2009 to 30 percent of sales in 2010. And Ecco is forecasting that its street and hybrid lines will account for 60-65 percent of sales of golf shoes this year.

Footwear has long been an underappreciated piece of golf equipment. For years, the footwear rivaled bowling for predictability. But as more and more golfers began rejecting traditional footwear, it didn’t take long for competi-

tors to introduce a rash of copycats. Ashworth, Puma, and Canadian upstart Kikkor quickly entered the fray. Once FootJoy, the dominant player in the market, launched its own street version in March 2011, the race was on. This year, FootJoy introduced Contour Casual, an extension of its Contour Series franchise.

At the PGA Merchandise Show in January, street hybrid and natural-motion shoes were the hottest product in footwear. The question is, are these shoes a one-hit wonder or is this a defining moment for the golf footwear business?

Grant Knudson, global footwear marketing manager for Adidas Golf, says a revolution is going on in golf footwear.

“The new materials allow us to produce shoes that are lighter weight, more stable and flexible and with just as much traction than the old, heavy shoes of the past,” he says.

› Ecco Biom Hybrid



› FootJoy Contour Casual



“New materials allow us to produce shoes that are lighter weight, more stable and flexible and with just as much traction than the old, heavy shoes of the past.” — Grant Knudson

Meanwhile, a larger debate over running shoes rages on. Advocates of the “minimalist” or “natural motion” movement in running decry what they call excessive cushioning in shoes. Natural performance shoes have made their way into golf, says Ecco’s Helter.

“We think the natural motion concept is more valid in golf than it is in running,” he says.

Ecco’s advanced design technology encourages golfers to land more toward the mid-foot than the heel. It launched the Biom Hybrid, which blends a classic look with its popular casual style, in 2011. This is Couples’ shoe of preference these days, along with pros Graeme McDowell and Stuart Appleby.

The trend gained its latest high-profile convert when Tiger Woods asked Nike Golf’s designers to make him a pair of golf shoes that borrowed technology from the Nike Free shoes he wore when exercising. Woods began sporting the shoe in competition this season. The Nike TW ’13, which looks and feels more

like a running shoe than a traditional golf shoe, hit stores June 8 in time for the U.S. Open.

“There’s no doubt that Tiger Woods has further validated the category,” Helter says. “He can influence a consumer and his perception of a product.”

Nike’s hardly alone in chasing the market. Competitors have flooded the market and are vying for shelf space at retail stores. Adidas launched Crossflex, an ultra-lightweight athletic shoe (10.6 ounces) for the active golfer. Built on a running shoe platform with a spikeless, geometric outsole, Crossflex boasts cushioning and performance that transitions easily from the golf course to the street (such versatility is a plus for the traveling golfer looking to pack light).

Adidas also ramped up production of its minimalist entry, the Pure Motion, and PGA Tour pro Ryan Moore endorses and has an ownership stake in upstart True Linkswear, which produces natural motion golf shoes.

Female golfers are falling in love with hybrid

golf shoes, too. Fashion is driving much of the interest. Colorful, comfortable footwear that can cross over from the course to the mall has earned a fast following.

For many golfers, old habits die hard. Cleated golf shoes still account for the bulk of sales. But much like the click-clack of the metal spike that became obsolete in the 1990s, industry observers say natural motion and hybrid street shoes could account for 40 percent of all golf footwear within two years. Some have predicted the golf spike will be dead within five years.

For now, most golfers still have a spiked product, which offer superior traction in damp conditions. Don’t be surprised if future iterations make another giant leap forward. One thing is for sure: These new shoes have been a big step in the right direction for golfers everywhere.

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

› Nike TW ’13



› Adidas Pure Motion



Life Lessons

CAREER CHANGE TOOK HARVEY FROM BOARD ROOM TO TEE BOX

/ written by BETSEY MITCHELL

Nancy Harvey can teach you how to play golf. But a lesson from her at the Dana Rader Golf School in Charlotte, N.C., might do more than just adjust your grip or improve your alignment. Her personal story could teach us something about life.

Harvey graduated from Syracuse University with an engineering degree and rose to branch manager of a Fortune 500 industrial distribution company with a staff of 50 employees. Her days were filled with vendors, contractors, and customers looking for solutions. She liked her job, but had the itch to try something else. Who hasn't?

"At first, I just wanted to go to a golf school," says Harvey. "I googled 'golf school' and the Golf Academy of America (GAA) came up."

Seven months later, at age 33, Harvey quit her job, sold her New York City condo, and headed to Florida. "It's not as extreme as it sounds," she says. "My mom had a place in Orlando that she only used in the winter so I had a low-budget place to stay. Her generosity made the decision a lot easier."

While the former soccer player was a pretty good athlete, Harvey's initial goal was to end up on the retail management side of golf. She had only taken up the game just two years earlier, and wasn't even a decent golfer.

"In my first school tournament in Orlando I shot 128," says Harvey. "The bookwork came easy to me, so my hardest job was getting better at golf. I played or practiced six days a week and took lessons." Just 16 months later, she shot 74.

Harvey was surprised to find out how much she enjoyed instruction. Her GAA associate's

degree landed her as an assistant with a club in Philadelphia. She moved to the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. In 2005, she became a full-time instructor at the Dana Rader Golf School. Now an LPGA Class A Professional, Harvey routinely gives more than 2,000 lessons a year to students from all ages and skill levels.

"She's the hardest worker I've ever met," says Dana Rader. "I get hundreds of comments every year from students telling me how terrific she is."

"If someone would have told me 15 years ago that I'd be a golf instructor, I'd have told them they were crazy," says Harvey. "But now I wouldn't want to be doing anything else."

The switch from corporate life to golf might seem like a huge transition, but Harvey doesn't see it that way. "My previous career required all sorts of people skills," she says. "You can't just tell folks what to do. There are all sorts of ways of introducing a new idea."

Those skills come into play when getting a student to approach a golf shot from a new perspective. "They have to understand both the technique and the pay-off," Harvey says. "Some learn by seeing, others by doing. My job is to figure out what works best and adjust the instruction to fit their needs."

➤ **Betsy Mitchell** is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.



Want to go back to school?

If you're looking for a career change, Nancy Harvey's route took her to the Golf Academy of America (golfacademy.edu). Their 16-month program balances classroom studies, practical experience, and comprehensive understanding of both the game and the business of golf. Campuses are located in Myrtle Beach, San Diego, Phoenix, Orlando, and Dallas.

If you're simply looking to polish your game, the Dana Rader Golf School (danarader.com) is on *Golf Magazine's* list of the Top 25 Golf Schools in America. Rader has assembled an award-winning team of certified LPGA and PGA instructors. They certainly specialize in women's programs, but also offer extensive programs for men, juniors, corporate, and private groups. Rader and fellow instructor Julie Cole have been named among *Golf Digest Woman's America's* 50 Best Women Teachers ranking. Marc Lapointe and Molly Tullar were named to U.S. Kids Golf Honorable Mention list of Top 50 Kids Teachers for 2011.

An Amateur with Status

VICKI DISANTIS' MAJOR IMPACT ON JUNIOR GIRLS GOLF / written by BETSEY MITCHELL

Professionals who teach the game and manage golf courses may get the cash, **but it's volunteers like Vicki DiSantis who get the love.** And she'd be the first to say it's the better end of the bargain.

Anyone attending a girls' golf event knows how faces light up when they see her. Each is greeted with that special Vicki-Carolina-drawl, "Hallo, how are you? I am so glad to see you."

Back in 1984, DiSantis had a "career" as a sixth grade teacher. Then she went "amateur." As a trained volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), judges appointed her to investigate and determine the needs of abused and neglected children, then paired her with an Attorney Advocate to represent the child. Through this program, she met her husband Paul — and later adopted daughters Jennifer and Beth.

After moving to Pinehurst, DiSantis joined the Friends of Moore County GAL Board to assist at-risk children through programs such as "Computers for Kids."

Along the way, DiSantis played a little golf. "My husband gave me a great gift when he taught me to play," she says. Her name is on a championship plaque at National Golf Club in Pinehurst. She also won the club championship at Pinehurst CC. "Paul and I won the Pinehurst Couples championship a couple of times — even beat Patty and Jake Moore one year."

She serves on the CGA Executive Committee; so, these days, DiSantis plays just a couple of times a month. But she's likely to shoot in the low 80s. Friend and fellow volunteer Nancy Mayer teases, "Vicki only

buys one sleeve of golf balls a year." DiSantis' reply? "I don't need any more than that."

DiSantis became involved with junior golf when daughter Jennifer started playing. "Barbara Kuhn talked me into entering her in the Twin States and Carolinas Junior Girls' Championship," she says. "I loved those tournaments!"

After Jennifer graduated, DiSantis helped out, then, when Kuhn moved on, took over as the director of junior girls' golf for the Women's Carolinas Golf Association (WCGA) and ran the Twin States and Carolinas Junior Girls' from 2000-2006. In 2000, only 17 girls played. By 2006, there were more than 100.

When DiSantis could no longer do the tournaments justice by running them from her home, the WCGA turned them over to the CGA.

In 2007, the WCGA created a new event for young junior girls with a limited field of 50 players. Most importantly, DiSantis says, there is a lot of scheduled social time for girls to get acquainted. "Friendships formed through golf can last a lifetime. These girls are more likely to stay with the game if given the chance to form friendships that go beyond the field of play."

For this year's event, DiSantis invited college players who had competed in her junior girls programs to share their experiences. The



response was overwhelming. Eight agreed to come — two others were busy with practice rounds at the U.S. Women's Open. "I guess that's a pretty good excuse," DiSantis says.

Even this smaller event has become difficult to manage from her home office. Competitors have become accustomed to registering online and having up-to-the-minute status reports of their entries. The WCGA decided to move their entire calendar over to the CGA. But don't worry. DiSantis will still be directing the event.

It's no surprise that when the CGA wanted to start a new tournament for girls, they chose the title Vicki DiSantis Junior Girls Championship.

DiSantis has had an impact on golf outside of North Carolina. She's been a member of the USGA Junior Girls' Committee since 2002 and serves as an official at the girls' national championship. She also co-chaired the championship when it was hosted by the Country Club of North Carolina in 2010.

> **Betsy Mitchell** is a frequent contributor to *Carolinas Golf*.

The Next Generation of Golf

THESE GIRLS ARE GOOD!

/ written by TIFFANY PRIEST – CGA DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S GOLF AND MEMBER SERVICES / illustration by KEVIN FALES

I'm often asked: "How come you don't have any kids?" Usually I just smile and say that I can't even keep up with the plants on my porch, never mind a kid. **But the truth is I have kids. Lots of them.**

Hundreds of girls come through the CGA's junior golf programs and championships each year. I enjoy getting to watch their game and personalities mature and flourish. It's always fun to watch where they end up in life.

The girls in the Carolinas are lucky! We conduct eight championships just for girls. In fact, girls throughout the Carolinas have more opportunities to play — for minimal cost — than any other region in the country.

Many of our players have gone on to do wonderful things — on and off the course. Some play on the LPGA tour (Beth Daniel, Cydney Clanton, and Kristi McPherson), some are lawyers and doctors, and one is even a top Golf Channel correspondent (Kelly Tilghman).

Girls' golf is on the rise throughout the country. Did you see that 10-year-old who

qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship this year? She shot a 70 to qualify. Did I mention she was only 10?

While we don't have any 10-year-old phenoms in our CGA tournaments (yet), many up-and-coming 12-year-olds play every week throughout the summer ... and, man, are they good! They weigh around 50 pounds soaking wet, yet knock it down the fairway 220 yards or more with ease. I can't imagine what the future holds for them if they are this good now.

All of these girls have a place to play right here in the Carolinas. Players and their parents are appreciative; they just want opportunity. I'm happy we can provide that.

Once, we could hardly get enough girls to fill a field. Now, we have so many girls coming out to play, our North Carolina Junior

Championship for Boys and Girls will be separated into two championships next year.

We even have a tournament for rising sophomores in high school or younger. Don't get me wrong — this is a championship; one of those 12-year-olds won it this year. But it's also a place where girls just starting the game can learn how to use a score card properly. Vicki DiSantis, a member of our CGA Executive Committee, puts her heart and soul into this championship (see profile on page 27).

Tarheel Youth Golf Association One-Day Tournaments (TYGA.org) lets girls and boys get a taste of competitive experience for a nominal fee of \$15. In addition, we have many multi-day championships, match play tournaments, and team events all year. Just for girls.

Even though golf might seem stagnant at the moment, it's an exciting time for girls' golf. They learn that the golf course is a fun place to be. They are making friends to last a lifetime in a game they can play forever. Life skills are being developed, and I'm glad we have a part in that.

If you know of a young girl who shows interest in this game we know and love, I suggest you get her some clubs and take her to the driving range. Encourage her. Who knows? She could be the next Annika Sorenstam — or perhaps land a college scholarship. At the very least, she'll have fun — and at the end of the day, that's all that matters.

