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SPORTS

Thursday, Mar. 12, 2009

Granddaddy gets a facelift

Alan Blondin – ablondin@thesunnews.com

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Fred, Louise and son Sandy Miles would certainly be elated if they were here to see how the club they nurtured for decades looks today.

After purchasing Ocean Forest Country Club in 1944, the Miles family changed the name to Pine Lakes International Country Club, fostered the club's Scottish-themed attire and perpetuated the term ``The Granddaddy'' at Myrtle Beach's oldest and most renowned course.

They sold the course to Burroughs & Chapin Co., Inc., in 2001, and B&C has restored the glory to the Pine Lakes Country Club course and 62-room clubhouse, which are on the National Register of Historic Places.



Pine Lakes Country Club, the areas first golf course which opened in 1927, is ready to reopen after a major renovation of the clubhouse and golf course in Myrtle Beach. The

Pine Lakes Country Club: Past and present Pine Lakes Country Club golf course is back Six legends to enter Hall of Fame at course

- New holes video
- Inside the clubhouse video
- Video: Golf course renovations
- Video: Inside the clubhouse

Opened – 1927

A two-year restoration project that B&C executive vice president Bob Swezey says cost approximately \$15 million will be unveiled today when the club opens for the first Myrtle Beach Golf Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

``I think they would be very proud of it," said Beulah Miles, widow of Sandy Miles, who died in 1995. ``I'm so glad we sold it to someone who would do such a fabulous job with it. I think it looks absolutely wonderful."

Courses architect Craig Schreiner, a co-designer with Nick Price of the Members Club at Grande Dunes, renovated and rebuilt the course, which is reopening Saturday as a 6,675-yard par-70. The routing of nine holes remains from Robert White's original 1927 design, and nine are a medley of holes built and rebuilt over the years.

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Architect – Robert White, ``Chip" Crowe 1959 addition, Craig Schreiner 2009 resto ration

Par – 70

Yardage – Back: 6,675; Member: 6,305; Middle: 5,756; Senior: 4,758

Course Rating/Slope – Will be done by South Carolina Golf Association in late March

Greens – Seadwarf Paspalum

Fairways – Seadwarf Paspalum

Rates – Range from \$69–\$175

Club Director – Mike Bucceroni

Head Professional – Brad Crumling

Superintendent – Alan Jarvis

Address – 5603 Granddaddy Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Web site – www.pinela kes.com

Phone – 843-315-7700, 1-866-772-4669

* The Woodside Ave. entrance will become a members-only entrance after this week's grand opening festivities. Access for others will be off Grissom Parkway onto Granddaddy Drive, which was expected to open this week.

The following are hole descriptions provided by designer Craig Schreiner, with hole number, yardage, par and former hole prior to renovation.

No. 1, 343-yard par-4 (10): Classic short hole with risky tee shot if you are using a driver because water is left from landing area to the green. Play smart for position in fairway to hit the well bunkered very large green.

No. 2, 195-yard par-3 (11): Large green is an excellent target for this tee shot into the prevailing wind. Deep bunker on the front right puts emphasis on receptive approach to the left.

No. 3, 463-yard par-4 (12): A strong, long hole and perhaps the most difficult par on the course with a wider landing area that favors tees shots placed to the left side. The approach is more receptive from the left with an enlarged pond flanking the putting surface along the entire right side, which falls to the right.

No. 4, 359-yard par-4 (New): Short dogleg left with well contained landing area flanked with wetland on the left. Green has wetland skirting the left side with open approach to the right and a bank that kicks slightly long approaches back onto the putting surface.

No. 5, 529-yard par-5 (New): Reachable dogleg-left par-5 has wetland in front of tees and along the entire left side. Wide landing area is forgiving with a classic approach bunker about 40 yards from the green on the right side to reward aggressive or well-placed second shots. A third shot to the smallest green on the course must avoid a deep left front bunker.

No. 6, 402-yard par-4 (13): Undulating landing area

original holes and modernized them," Schreiner said. ``The balance of the other nine are probably a synthesis of the past 50 years."

Holes four and five are the only entirely new holes and are located on the northwest end of the property near a new main tenance building.

Landing areas off the tee have been widened by thinning trees. All bunkers feature sand native to the site that inhibits plugging and there are just 27 of them on the course. Seven are in fair ways, and two of those are waste bunkers and three are within 30 yards of greens.

``It's a little more forgiving off the tee," Schreiner said. ``We've been able to keep things simple and golf needs to go back there."

Though landing areas are generous, small portions of fair ways will offer the best stance and angles into greens. ``Each hole has a `Position A' that is about 6,000 to 7,000 square feet and is flatter and higher than other areas, and the greens open up to that position," Schreiner said.

Rolling terrain that is subtle in some areas and steep in others was reestablished by slightly raising high areas and slightly lowering the low areas, which will also help with drain age. ``There is more movement through the whole golf course," Schreiner said. ``It has a visual simplicity but when you play it you'll realize every inch of the course has been reshaped."

Greens shrunk over time through the encroachment of fairway grass and flattened through years of top dressing. They were enlarged back to their original size from an average of 3,200 to 6,500 square feet and again have movement.

``I think it will play a little more strategically," Schreiner said. ``It will be more friendly off the tee, but the green complexes have been made more strategic by restoring the bunkering around the greens and green contours."

The course has three large tee boxes containing a total of four tees, and ornamental vegetation was collected before the renovation and redistributed throughout the new layout. The course also features new SeaDwarf Paspalum grass wall-to-wall. ``It's revolutionary in golf," Schreiner said. ``It's a salt-tolerant grass that can be mowed to all heights: for greens, tees, fairways and roughs."

As it has for years, the club will serve

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Pine Lakes Country Club golf course is back

rewards tees shot hit to the higher right side. The fairway is slightly domed to add difficulty to holding the center right side. An enlarged pond on the left skirts the green that is nestled between two large mounds.

No. 7, 381-yard par-4 (14): Dogleg right with large ridge that slopes left to right rewarding shots that skirt two fairway bunkers added to the left to turn the hole and to frame the tee shot. An open green has steep approach on the left and right so shots that run up must be on line to the center of the green.

No. 8, 212-yard par-3 (15): Longest par-3 with elevated green that is the largest on the course, steep approach and water behind. The left side has a bailout area if you avoid the deep front right side bunker.

No. 9, 369-yard par-4 (16): Dogleg left is now very well protected with an enlarged lake on the left along the landing area sloping to the left toward the pond and the green. The greenside bunkers are deeper and the approach is much more contoured, only rewarding shots that hit left center.

No. 10, 554-yard par-5 (1): The first landing area has been raised and contoured to reward shots that hit the center. The approach is well protected with a deeper renovated bunker that protects the right side of this very narrow green that is flanked by two deep original bunkers.

No. 11, 155-yard par-3 (7): Everyone remembers this short par-3 with the wood flavored chowder served by the 'Big Dog.' The hole has been strengthened by enlarging the pond and extending it around the left side while bringing it much closer to the green, and a raised bunker was added to the right.

No. 12, 415-yard par-4 (8): The landing area is higher and now slopes towards the green on the left, and a large and deep waste bunker awaits on the right, where native sand was mined for the course's bunkers. Water appears on the left of the green that was pushed back 50 yards and raised, and has a narrow approach with a large bunker on the right.

No. 13, 437-yard par-4 (9): This hole is now a par-4 with a more demanding tee shot to a raised landing area that slopes to the right. The green has been raised and is flanked by original bunkers that are two feet deeper and protect a smaller, steeper approach.

No. 14, 438-yard par-4 (3): The pond has been enlarged and extended to the left so a mandatory short carry is necessary to reach the more elevated green. The bunkers are deeper with a very steep approach that will not allow most shots to roll onto the green.

No. 15, 378-yard par-4 (4): A large waste bunker creates a risk-reward tee shot that urges you to hit it long and right where a simple second shot awaits. The green opens up on the right with a very deep bunker on the left of the green to remind golfers that the safer tee shot to the left means a more demanding second shot.

No. 16, 180-yard par-3 (5): This undulating green now brings water into play because the irrigation pond was enlarged and extended closer to the large green. A deep bunker is located left to force the tee shot to the center of

Manhattan clam chowder in the winter and mimosas in the summer, but they'll be served in the Robert White pub, which is passed after the ninth, 13th and 18th holes, rather than on the course.

Starters and rangers will no longer wear kilts, though all outside staff including starters, rangers, cart attendants and beverage cart drivers will wear knickers. Restaurants workers will wear white shirts with red bow ties and red vests, and the professional staff will wear grey pants, white shirts, a tartan Scottish-themed tie and blue blazers.

"They will still kind of have the Scottish theme, just not the full kilts," said head pro Brad Crumling. "We wanted to keep the traditional style of being the oldest golf course with the Scottish theme, but we also wanted to note The Granddaddy has changed a little bit and is better."

The renovated clubhouse features two bars, a large dining room and History Hall, which houses original Pine Lakes green drawings by White, and chronicles the history of White, Pine Lakes, the Ocean Forest Hotel and the creation of Sports Illustrated during a meeting of Time executives in 1954.

the green or at the well contoured area fronting green.

No. 17, 415-yard par-4 (6): The green was raised and shifted slightly south to make room for a large memorial oak tree to grow on the right side. The tee shot over water will land on a wider fairway where a large and very deep approach bunker confronts second shots that are in line with the large green protected by bunkers.

No. 18, 450-yard par-4 (2): The last hole is a strong finish with a landing area that now slopes towards the tee, shortening but accepting tee shots. The elevated green opens to the left center with deepened original bunkers flanking both sides to protect a narrower approach.

Key dates for Pine Lakes Country Club

1927 – Ocean Forest Country Club designed by former PGA of America president Robert White

1930s – Stables on the property house Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales and thoroughbreds owned by Rockefellers and Vanderbilts.

1944 – Miles family buys course from its developers and changes name to Pine Lakes.

1954 – Sports Illustrated concept conceived during meeting of Time magazine executives at Pine Lakes.

1959 – Nine holes that became back nine designed by R. Nelson ``Chip" Crowe

1989 – Club wins settlement in emblem controversy with Polo/Ralph Lauren

2001 – Miles family sells to Burroughs & Chapin Co., Inc.

2006 – Course and clubhouse close for estimated \$15 million restoration project

2008 – Creation of Myrtle Beach Golf Hall of Fame Garden announced

2009 – Pine Lakes reopens after renovation by architect Craig Schreiner



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