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Pine Lakes upgrade: Green revival

Pine Lakes to open in March after refresh

By Alan Blondin - ablondin@thesunnews.com

MYRTLE BEACH -- It appears Myrtle Beach will regain its oldest golf course in about eight months, with many of its original features restored to match a 21st century upgrade.

Course designer Craig Schreiner, who is overseeing the restoration of Pine Lakes International Country Club, and property owner Burroughs & Chapin Co. say the course is on schedule for a March reopening.

Unveiled will be two entirely new holes, some hole renumbering and rerouting, the introduction of a new grass into the Grand Strand golf market and a clubhouse remodeled in its original classical revival style.

Changes have been limited so they won't threaten the standing of the course and clubhouse, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Most hole corridors have remained intact.

"Most people will recognize the old routing pretty easily," Schreiner said.

"The Granddaddy," as the course is known, was designed by Robert White, the first president of the PGA of America, and opened in 1927. Sports Illustrated was conceived at the course in the fall of 1953 when Time Magazine executives met to work, play golf and ride horses. The grand clubhouse was designed by Raymond Hood, who also designed skyscrapers in New York.

The old 17th and 18th holes are the only ones that have been eliminated, which was done in order to create a new entrance road off Robert Grissom Parkway. They have been replaced by what are now the new fourth and fifth holes on the west side of the course, which has been transformed from a 6,600-yard par-71 to a 6,700-yard par-70 with just two par-5s.

The greens on three holes and tee boxes on seven holes have been moved, largely to lengthen holes and increase playing options.

The original nine holes - a nine-hole addition was built in 1959 - have been affected the least by the changes and comprise the back nine.

"From what we could determine they were the best of the old holes," Schreiner said. "So we wanted to make



A worker mows around a pond on the old 4th fairway at the Pine Lakes Country Club. It is now the 15th with a new waste area. TOM MURRAY tmurray@thesunnews.com

■ [Pine Lakes Country Club](#)

PINE LAKES HOLE ROUTING

- New 1 -- Old 10
- New 2 -- Old 11
- New 3 -- Old 12
- New 6 -- Old 13
- New 7 -- Old 14
- New 8 -- Old 15
- New 9 -- Old 16
- New 10 -- Old 1
- New 11 -- Old 7
- New 12 -- Old 8
- New 13 -- Old 9
- New 14 -- Old 3
- New 15 -- Old 4
- New 16 -- Old 5
- New 17 -- Old 6
- New 18 -- Old 2

* Holes 4 and 5 are new and replaced old holes 17 and 18.

* The greens on holes 3, 6, 12 and tee boxes on seven holes were moved.

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sure we maintained that feel and amplified it a little bit."

In amplifying the contours, Schreiner said the low points of holes were lowered and high points were raised, including greens in many instances. Greenside bunkers were also enlarged and deepened.

"It makes a difference," Schreiner said. "You add four feet of fall through the same signature that was there and it just blows the topography up and makes it look great."

The slight elevation changes also help control and improve drainage, which, along with irrigation, has been improved throughout the property.

Using a few of White's old blueprints that were found on the property as a guide, greens have been enlarged back to their original size of nearly 6,000 square feet each, up from an average of about 3,500 square feet. Subtle movement was also added to greens that had become largely flat, and tee boxes that had deformed over time have been enlarged and made rectangular.

The course's old par-3 seventh hole, made famous over the years for the gregarious characters who served chowder and mimosas near the tee box, is now the 158-yard 11th hole. The green and a fronting lake have each been made about three times larger, and the lake is now nearly up against the putting surface, which slopes toward the water.

Passersby of the course at the intersection of Kings Highway and Woodcreek Avenue may have noticed it has transformed from brown dirt to predominantly green grass in the past of couple of months.

Seashore Paspalum grass, which can grow with limited and brackish water, was sodded and sprigged in May and June. The warm-weather grass is being used wall-to-wall on the layout and has never been used extensively at a course as far north as Myrtle Beach.

"This Pine Lakes has been a fun job," Schreiner said. "We were able to shape the golf course, which is a lot of adding continuity and matching the old nine with the new nine, and I think we got pretty close to pulling it off."

ONLINE | To view Blondin's blog, "Green Reading," or Q&A Forum "Ask AI," go to MyrtleBeachOnline.com.

Pine Lakes hole routing

New 1 | Old 10

New 2 | Old 11

New 3 | Old 12

New 6 | Old 13

New 7 | Old 14

New 8 | Old 15

New 9 | Old 16

New 10 | Old 1

New 11 | Old 7

New 12 | Old 8

New 13 | Old 9

New 14 | Old 3

New 15 | Old 4

New 16 | Old 5

New 17 | Old 6

New 18 | Old 2

Holes 4 and 5 are new and replaced old holes 17 and 18.

The greens on holes 3, 6, 12 and tee boxes on seven holes were moved.

Contact ALAN BLONDIN at 626-0284.

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