

Pawleys Plantation Reopens After Dramatic Greens, Bunkers Restoration Project

At the heart of Jack Nicklaus' vision was a layout that was more playable for average golfers without diminishing the challenge for more skilled players

PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC, US, November 2, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Pawleys Plantation](#) Golf & Country Club, a Jack Nicklaus design renowned for its beauty and challenge, reopened after a comprehensive greens and bunkers restoration project.

Founders Group International (FGI), Pawleys' parent company, contracted with Nicklaus Design Group and its Design Associate Troy Vincent to lead a project that has modernized one of the area's most popular courses while maintaining the integrity of Nicklaus' original work.

"Pawleys Plantation opened in the late 1980s, and it was time to look at the layout and reimagine what it could be," said Steve Mays, President of Founders Group International. "When you have a golf course that is associated with an icon like Jack Nicklaus, of course you want to incorporate his input and use the Nicklaus Design team to ensure the course continues to fulfill its potential going forward."

Pawleys closed May 22 and golfers were welcomed back to a layout that received a dramatic facelift.

The seeds for the renovation of Pawleys were planted during a trip Nicklaus made to the acclaimed course in 2018 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its opening. The Golden Bear toured the layout, providing detailed notes on how to best update a design that has long been among South Carolina's most popular.



Pawleys Plantation, a Jack Nicklaus design, is one of South Carolina's premier public courses following a greens and bunkers renovation project

At the heart of Nicklaus' vision was a layout that was more playable for average golfers without diminishing the challenge for more skilled players.

Over time, trees had encroached on the course, narrowing fairway corridors beyond the original intent, and the size of the greens complexes had shrunk dramatically. To create more room, Vincent and his team eliminated the sprawling bunkers that lined more than half of the layout's holes, replacing them with additional fairway space and native areas, and removed trees when necessary to create optimum conditions.

"We followed Jack's ideas from 2018," said Vincent, who has worked alongside the golf legend for 15 years. "It was our intention to make the course more playable, to give players more options, and we have carried that out. I think everyone will be happy."

While there is more fairway to find, the challenge on and around the greens is more substantial as the number of pinnable areas significantly increased, placing greater demands on the short game.

"Working with the Nicklaus Group and Troy Vincent, who has done a fantastic job, has been a pleasure," Mays said. "I believe we have brought the vision Jack Nicklaus outlined in 2018 to life. I can't wait for everyone to come out and see the new Pawleys Plantation."

Highlights of the project include:

- Every green complex and the surrounding fringe was stripped, tilled and restored to its original specifications, netting nearly 40,000 square feet of additional putting surface.

- The new greens feature TifEagle Bermudagrass, an ultradwarf strain that has performed exceedingly well at other FGI layouts, including the Grande Dunes Resort Course and River Hills Golf Club.

- The collar around every green was resurfaced with Tahoma 31, a hearty variety of bermudagrass that can withstand close mowing and is resistant to mutation.

- The sprawling bunkers on holes 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16 and 18 were replaced by smaller fairway bunkers, native areas and expanded fairways, enhancing the course's playability for mid to high handicappers without reducing the challenge for more skilled players.

- In addition to the course work, Pawleys is undergoing a clubhouse renovation that will include the building of a new deck, offering stunning views of the course's 18th hole, and the opening of a new restaurant that will cater to members and the public alike. The restaurant and deck are expected to open in the coming weeks.

Widely regarded as one of the prettiest courses in South Carolina, Pawleys features six back nine

holes that play along a tidal marsh, a stretch highlighted by No. 13, a devilish par 3 that plays to a peninsula green surrounded by water and buffeted by winds off the nearby Atlantic Ocean.

Founders Group International owns 21 Myrtle Beach golf courses, making it one of the largest management companies in the Southeast, and FGI has aggressively reinvested in its courses in recent years. FGI has undertaken significant capital improvement projects at Grande Dunes Resort Course, TPC Myrtle Beach, Pine Lakes, Aberdeen Country Club, River Hills, Tradition Club and the PineHills and Palmetto courses at Myrtlewood.

With additional capital improvement projects on the horizon, FGI is reinforcing its commitment to providing golfers with the best golf vacation experience possible.

For more information on Pawleys Plantation, visit www.PawleysPlantation.com.

For more information on FGI, visit [www.FOUNDERSGOLF.com](http://wwwFOUNDERSGOLF.com).

About Founders Group International

Founders Group International (FGI) is the foremost golf course owner-operator company in the Southeastern United States. Formed in 2014 through various purchases and the 2015 acquisition of National Golf Management, FGI owns and operates 21 golf courses (405 holes) in and around Myrtle Beach, S.C., America's seaside golf capital.

Those courses include Pine Lakes Country Club, the "granddaddy" of Myrtle Beach area courses; TPC Myrtle Beach, host site of the 2019 NCAA Division I men's golf regional and Dustin Johnson World Junior Golf Championship; and Grande Dunes Resort Club, home of the Grande Dunes Golf Performance Center.

FGI administers www.MBN.com, a leader in online tee time bookings, as well as package outlet Myrtle Beach Golf Trips. With the help of Golf Insider's 100 percent player-generated course ranking system, thousands of golfers plan and assemble their ideal golf itineraries through FGI's assets, including "top-100 caliber" courses Pawleys Plantation Golf & Country Club, King's North at Myrtle Beach National Golf Club, and more than 80 other Myrtle Beach area courses.

More information about Founders Group International is available at www.foundersgroupinternational.com, www.mbn.com or MyrtleBeachGolfTrips.com.

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