

# Brunswick County Boasts Sure Cure For Golf Bug

BY DOUG RUTTER

The winter cold and flu season has come and gone, thankfully, but the mighty golf bug is thriving this spring in the South Brunswick Islands.

If you catch it, fear not. Brunswick County has just what the doctor ordered—enough golf courses to appease even the "sickest" golfaholics.

With 21 championship courses and counting, visiting golfers can play one course per week from Easter through Labor Day and never see the same one twice. If that won't cure the golf bug, nothing will.

While Brunswick County's courses spread from one end of the county to the other, Calabash to Bald Head Island, the greatest concentration is right here in the South Brunswick Islands.

Shallotte, Calabash and the beach towns of Holden, Ocean Isle and Sunset make up the South Brunswick Islands area. Together, they boast 16 golf courses, including 12 in the Calabash-Sunset Beach vicinity.

Among the dozen is Brunswick Plantation & Golf Links, the county's newest course. The Southern-style resort located in the Hickmans Crossroads community is in its first full year of operation.

Below is a list of local courses with some pertinent facts and thoughts from the *Beacon* golf staff.

## Bald Head Island

Golfers looking for a beautiful course off the beaten path need look no farther than Bald Head Island Golf Club. The remote island off Cape Fear is accessible via a 20-minute ferry ride from Southport.

Salt marshes, tidal creeks and more than 800 acres of maritime forests provide the backdrop for the island's George Cobb-designed golf course. The par-72 measures 7,040 yards and navigates 15 freshwater lagoons, challenging players on every hole.

## Brick Landing Plantation

With three holes skirting the

## An Impressive Lineup

Course	Par	Yardage	Location
Bald Head Island	72	7040	Marina/Southport
Brick Landing	72	6943	Ocean Isle Beach
Brierwood	72	6700	Shallotte
Brunswick Plantation	72	6800	Hickmans Crossroads
Carolina Shores	72	6757	Calabash
Fox Squirrel	72	6762	Boiling Spring Lakes
Lion's Paw	72	7003	Sunset Beach
Lockwood Links	72	6801	Lockwood Folly
Marsh Harbour	71	6690	Calabash
Oak Island	72	6608	Yaupon Beach
Ocean Harbour	72	7004	Sunset Beach
Ocean Isle	72	6637	Ocean Isle Beach
Olde Fort	72	6200	Hwy. 133, Winnabow
Oyster Bay	70	6695	Sunset Beach
The Pearl: East	72	6895	Old Georgetown Road
West	72	7011	Old Georgetown Road
Sandpiper Bay	71	6503	Old Georgetown Road
Sea Trail: Maples	72	6751	Sunset Beach
Jones	72	6761	Sunset Beach
Byrd	72	6750	Sunset Beach
St. James Plantation (The Gauntlet)	72	7068	Southport

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Brick Landing Plantation offers some of the most breathtaking views you'll find in Brunswick County.

The course features one of the most memorable par threes in the region. The short 17th hole requires a tee shot to a small green overlooking the waterway. Balls hit too firmly from the elevated tee often end up with the fish.

Accuracy is a premium at The Brick, located south of Shallotte and east of Ocean Isle Beach on N.C. 179.

The course folds naturally into the terrain and features bulkhead greens, pot ponds, marshland and more than 60 sand bunkers. Experience counts for a lot on this course, so you may want to play it more than once.

## Brierwood

Brierwood Golf Club located on N.C. 179 on the outskirts of Shallotte is the oldest course in the South Brunswick Islands, but it re-

mains a favorite among locals.

Brierwood's reasonable rates and well-conditioned fairways and

greens make it a popular choice among area golf associations, tourists and senior golfers alike.

Despite its age, Brierwood demands a variety of shots and can still offer one of the most enjoyable rounds of golf in the county.

## Brunswick Plantation

Brunswick Plantation & Golf Links is the new kid on the block. Although the front nine was opened last summer, this is the course's first full year of operation.

The Willard Byrd layout features bunkers that flank the sloping landing areas on par fours and fives, putting an emphasis on placement rather than distance.

The green are large and undulating, which places a premium on approach shots and putting. An island green at the 15th hole highlights Brunswick's back nine.

Brunswick Plantation is located on U.S. 17 about three miles north of the South Carolina state line.

## Carolina Shores

If you come to the beach, you have to expect to get some sand between your toes. Carolina Shores Golf & Country Club won't let you down.

The Calabash course features an intimidating 96 sand traps. Combined with fresh water lakes, Carolina Shores is a challenging but fun layout at 6,757 yards.

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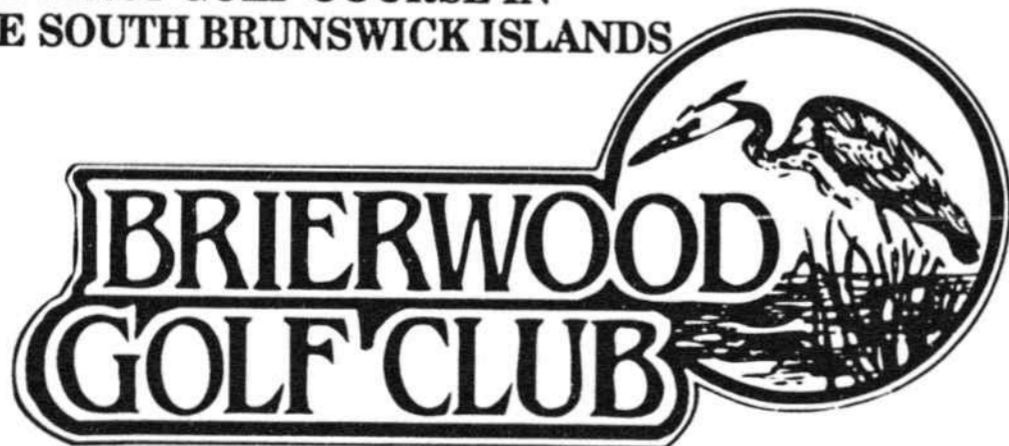
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