

Here You'll Find Golf Courses To Suit Every Taste

BY DOUG RUTTER

There's no denying that, with 21 championship courses open this fall and several more in the works, Brunswick County is quickly becoming a golf mecca in the Southeast.

The golf industry is thriving, particularly in the South Brunswick Islands area, where 16 of the county's courses are located.

Despite the high number of courses, each one offers a unique challenge and has a distinct personality of its own.

Brunswick County's courses also offer some of the most picturesque views in golf. Lakes, rivers, marshes or the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway or ocean are visible on almost every course.

The high quality of our local courses is no accident. Some of the top golf architects in the United States have designed them, including P.B. Dye, Rees Jones, Willard Byrd and Dan Maples.

Most of the area courses are open daily to the public, and several host professional and amateur tournaments throughout the year. More than half of the courses have popped up in the past 10 years.

Here is a list of local courses and 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 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

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

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 remains 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.

South Carolina architect Tom Jackson designed the par-72 course, which boasts lush fairways carved from tall pines. A large residential community surrounds the course.

Fox Squirrel

Located in the heart of Boiling Spring Lakes, Fox Squirrel Country Club combines water, mounded fairways, sand traps and receptive greens.

Aggressive golfers will find several holes that reward well-placed drives with opportunities for birdies and eagles. The Bermuda grass fairways are carved around huge freshwater lakes and towering long leaf pines.

This 6,272-yard layout got its name from its inhabitants—the large, furry fox squirrels that often dart across fairways into the trees.

The Gauntlet

Golfers interested in a coastal course with a different look may want to check out The Gauntlet at St. James Plantation.

The 7,068-yard layout differs from most coastal courses but still offers views of salt marshes, thick woodlands and the inland waterway and ocean.

The Gauntlet, located three miles from Southport on N.C. 211, is an unmistakable creation of renowned architect P.B. Dye and features his typical blend of imagination and fiendishness.

Golfers can expect undulating fairways and greens, startling ele-

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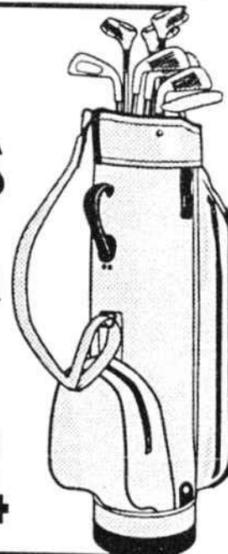
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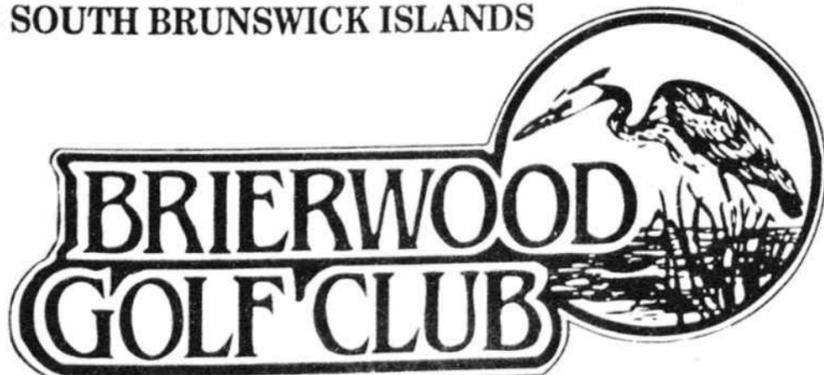
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