



Chip Shots

The Official Newsletter of Bartram Trail Golf Club

March / April 2019

Editor: Scott Skadan



Bartram Trail Golf Club News from the Head Pro / General Manager

March / April 2019

Dear Bartram Trail Golf Club Members,

Let's all wish for a DRY SPRING! I know you all will agree with that, with all the rain this winter it has been cart path only for what seems like an eternity. I ask all players to take a bottle of sand in the fairway with you, hit your shot and PLEASE fill in your divot, and one other. It will help the course recover quicker for the spring and summer.

We will soon be moving the range back to the grass tees, that should take place around March 15th. I do appreciate everyone hitting off the mat area until then. We have only three scheduled outings in March. On March 9th we have an Elite Events shotgun start at 1:30pm, March 10th we have a Greenbrier High School Fundraiser with a 1:30pm shotgun start and March 22nd we have a fundraiser even for a girls travel basketball team, also with a 1:30pm shotgun start.

Bartram Trail Golf Club will also host several high school golf matches Monday thru Thursday which will typically tee off around 3:15pm.

Masters Week is right around the corner. Tee times will be available during that week for members one week in advance. There will be no Seniors or Men's dogfight that week.

Bartram Trail Golf Club membership has never been higher than it is right now. The membership is the backbone of this course and I appreciate every member. We value your membership and hope that you are enjoying Bartram Trail Golf Club. We invite you to join us for a great time in our clubhouse as well. The food and fellowship are outstanding.

See you soon!

Robby Watson, Head Pro / GM

Bartram Trail Clubhouse Bar and Grille

By Janie Toole

Spring has arrived! Along with our exciting Thursday nights dinners, we have some very exciting upcoming Clubhouse events! You can look forward to:

Wine, Nine and Dine Couples golf outing coming up after Masters Week

Play 9 holes followed by a Wine tasting hosted by United Distributors and dinner prepared by a guest chef.

Bluebird Birdhouse Trail Crawl

Get to know Bartram Trail Golf Course in a different way, Sunday April 28th, The Bluebird Trail Crawl tours our 19 new birdhouses located around the golf course. (Happy Hour Hut, Brew Bird Inn, Ranco Retreat, Gabby's Dance Hall, Pete's Pad just to name a few) On the tour we will visit each birdhouse where you will enjoy a special treat from the birdhouse owner.

Dinner Solved at Bartram Trail

Pasta Night---Bingo, Burger and Brew---Tacos Tequila and Trivia--Shrimp and Salad Bar---Prime Rib Night
You will also want to try our delicious dessert Belgium Waffle served with pecan maple bourbon ice cream, topped with bacon crumbles, fresh blueberries, sprinkled with confectioner sugar and drizzled with cane syrup.

Look for your weekly email and make sure to make a reservation and join us for dinner!

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to meet and speak with so many of you. I love feedback, so should you have any thoughts or comments that you would like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Looking forward to an exciting and eventful spring season!



Please join us at the Bartram Trail Bar and Grille for some outstanding 19th Hole beverages and food. Our staff will take tremendous care of you and you will certainly enjoy the fellowship as well.

We serve the best burgers, wings, sandwiches and adult beverages in Columbia County. We proudly serve Coca-Cola products as well, so come and enjoy yourself at Bartram Trail GC.

GHIN Handicap Dues update

All golfers with a GHIN handicap at Bartram Trail Golf Club, your USGA GHIN Handicap dues were due by February 28th. If you have not paid your GHIN dues you have been placed on inactive status. You can regain your active status by paying your 2019 dues in the Pro Shop.

If you were recently transferred or added from another golf course, this does not apply to your handicap status at the other course.

Masters Week at Bartram Trail Golf Club

During Masters Week Bartram Trail Golf Club our members will have the opportunity to play at Bartram Trail Golf Club. We are one of the very few courses in our area that remains open to our membership during Masters Week.

Please make your Masters Week tee times at least a week in advance. There will be no Seniors or Men's dogfights during Masters Week.

Call the Pro Shop at (706) 210-4681



Bartram Trail Golf Club Members Pro Shop Special



**We dare you to compare our prices on our Spring selection
of FootJoy golf shoes!**

FootJoy Superlites



FootJoy Originals



FootJoy Pro/SI



FootJoy Contour



We also carry Sketchers Golf Shoes...

JUST ARRIVED New Antiqua Golf Shirts...Just \$52.95

Members...mention this ad and get yours for just \$45.00!!!



Meet our Golf Course Superintendent

Darren Davenport



Darren Davenport

Darren Davenport grew up in Silioam, Georgia in Greene County, about 45 miles from Bartram Trail Golf Club, and he still makes his home there. As a 15-year old he knew he wanted to work on a golf course. He got his first job mowing the greens at Greene County Country Club, cutting the cups, and when he was finished he worked in the Pro Shop. Once the weather turned cooler he would spend the winter hours working on the course equipment.

He played on the Greene County High School golf team as well. Darren then attended West Georgia College and then went to work for Tyson Foods. It wasn't long before he realized his real love was being around the golf course. He was hired as the Superintendent, Head Pro and General Manager of Greene County Country Club in 1987 thru 1988. From there he was hired at Reynolds Plantation where he spent seven years. After a stint selling golf course equipment for Jacobson, he was lured back to the life on the course and took over at Forest Hills Golf Course, working with Robby Watson, where he stayed for 19 years prior to being hired as the Superintendent here at Bartram Trail Golf Club on July 1, 2018.

Darren has an unusual nickname...Crack. "I got that nickname as a kid, long before the drug even became a thing! I was playing little league baseball, I slid into 3rd base, got up and pulled my pants down to get the dirt out...and the rest is history," said Davenport, laughing throughout telling the story!

Crack has been married to his wife Julie for 22 years. They have a daughter, Natalie, who lives in Anderson, SC, and Victoria, who is a junior at Greene County High School and is looking forward to one day working in the Cyber industry.

"The most important thing about my job is providing the playing conditions that the members deserve. I take great pride in that," said Darren.

What's Happening on the course in March and April...

We recently completed applying pre-emerge on the golf course. We'll be working on trimming back the Crepe Myrtles and filling in rough areas with dirt and sand. As Robby mentioned, the course has been over-saturated with rain and we appreciate everyone adhering to the Cart Path Only signs so we can protect the course until we deem it ready for carts once again.

We'll begin our fertilization program for the greens once we get some consistent mid-60 degree days. We've also lowered the blades on the mowers to gradually cut out the Rye grass on the Practice tee and Par 3's. We will also begin to whiten the sand in the bunkers in mid-march as well.

For the Homeowners:

Homeowners should be putting pre-emerge out as well between now and March 15th. You can go to wherever you get your yard care products and tell them what kind of grass you have and ask for the proper pre-emerge for your grass.

**Thanks,
Darren**

Bartram Trail Senior Men's Golf Association

(BTSMGA)

BOBBY BUFFKIN WINS SENIOR GOLFER OF THE YEAR

Our End-of-Year Banquet and Awards Presentation was held on November 20th (after 2 rain outs!). And in the final tally Bobby Buffkin edged out all other competitors to take home Player of the Year honors.

The Top Four Competitors played in the lead Foursome on the last day of the Tournament year. When the final scores came in Bobby ended the season with 122 'JJ' points. The points are awarded throughout the course of the entire season and are based on participation and performance. Rounding out the final grouping were Sammy Testino (120pts), Chuck Purkey (116pts), and Ronnie Ligon (114pts). Great season for all golfers.

Awards were also given for the following:

Most Improved Category A	Billy Nelson
Most Improved Category B	Tom Shepherd
Most Improved Category C	Jim Thompson
Most Improved Category D	Robert Medlin

Bob Bearden, Ed Brown and Jimmy Harper were the 'Iron Men' of the Association, each competing in 45 of 46 Tournaments.

Sammy Testino was the Association's Top Money Winner for the Year.

Three Competitors Scored Aces in 2018:

George Hill	February 16
Bobby Maddox	March 20
Ronnie Ligon	July 10

The Banquet included a prize drawing which included some great prizes provided by the Association as well as generous gifts provided by Head Pro Robby Watson. A great meal was prepared by the fantastic staff at the Club House and a good time was had by all.

The Bartram Trail Senior Men's Golf Association is open to all Senior Men age 55+. We play Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with the Tuesday outing being the 'Official' Association Tournament which has Team as well as Individual competition. Wednesday and Friday are a more casual 'Dog Fight' format. Dues and Tournament fees are reasonable and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly.

Contact the Course or e-mail Bob Prange at bprange01@yahoo.com



Matthew Barman



Robby Watson



Bill Fumai

Tip From The Pros “My Tip for Slicers”

By: Bill Fumai

Do you slice the ball? Slicing the ball is caused by swing path and clubface angle at impact. Let's fix path first. From the top of your swing you have to swing to the right on the way down. Practice taking divots on the ground going right. Next clubface angle: first thing is to turn your left hand grip to the left at address. Making it stronger, more in the fingers of your hand. This will assist in squaring the club at impact. Second: at top of your backswing the logo on your glove should be facing the sky. Lastly: on your way down turn your left hand down which will close the face at impact. These sound like difficult things to do but under the watchful eye of one of your PGA Teaching Pros at Bartram Trail, you can turn a slice into a nice draw!

**Call the Bartram Trail Pro Shop to book a lesson at 706-210-4681
to schedule a private lesson today with any of our Golf Pros**



Please continue to use the Practice Range Mats at the Bartram Trail Golf Club practice area while we prepare the grass on the range. We will re-open the entire practice range as soon as conditions are appropriate to do so.

The FIRST member to read this and email Robby Watson at robby.bartramtrail@comcast.net will receive a free lesson

Group Outings

If you have a group that is looking to have an outing at Bartram Trail Golf Club contact the Pro Shop and ask for Robby Watson

706-210-4681

Bartram Trail Men's Golf Association (BTMGA)

The BTMGA invites all men, regardless of age, to join our group and meet some great guys! We have our 'Dogfight' on Saturday mornings, with check in at 7:30am during Daylight Savings Time. We play a points system that makes it fair for all skill levels and new members are always welcome! Come join us on Saturday mornings, you'll have a great time!

We have recently introduced a new "app" that our members download and easily register to play each week, as well as register for special tournaments we have as well. We keep our hole-by-hole scores as well. It has made registration and post-play payouts quick and easy also. Come try it, we know you will enjoy it.

I would like to thank 'Crack' and his crew for the job they do in keeping our course in such tremendous shape. One the best things we have going at Bartram Trail is our Food and Beverage Consultant, Janie. She and her staff do a fantastic job in taking care of all the golfers that make their way through the Snack Bar. We also would like to thank Robby and the Pro Shop staff. We look forward to more new members joining the Bartram Trail Men's Golf Association. Come play a round, you'll truly enjoy it.

Assistant Pro Bill Fumai

Available for Lessons

Bill Fumai is available to teach lessons 7 days a week. Bill's basic lesson plan is \$40 for adults or a three-lesson plan for \$100.



Bill Fumai

Juniors ages 6-16 are \$35 each or three lessons for \$90.

All lessons are 45-60 minutes in length, and include video taping during the lesson for immediate review. Then afterwards I send the lesson plan along with the video to my patrons for review.

Call Assistant Pro Bill Fumai and book your lesson now, 706-210-4681



BARTRAM

TRAIL

Memberships are Available

Call 706-210-4681

Bartram Trail forming a PGA Junior League

What: Bartram Trail's PGA Junior League brings friends and families together around fun, team golf experiences, with expert advice from a PGA Professional.

Where: Bartram Trail Golf Club

When: April 16 2019 - June 25 2019.

Who: Boy and Girls, ages 9-13 and younger

(Approved by Captain) all skill levels welcomed.

Why: Team format that creates a nurturing environment for learning and development. PGA Jr. League is a fun, social, and inclusive opportunity for boys and girls to learn and enjoy the game of golf. Much like other recreational league sports, participants wear numbered jerseys and play on teams with their friends. Team captain and PGA Professional Bill Fumai, serves as the coach and mentor.

Register at pgajrleague.com from by March 15th.

Practice is Mondays from April 16-June 25. Matches to be held on Sunday afternoons, time tbd.

Cost: \$ 200 includes 2- team jerseys, hat, bag tags, weekly practice, scrimmages & competitions

Contact: Bill Fumai 706-691-3397

billfumai@gmail.com

Us.band@coachbillscorner

[billyfumai@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/billyfumai)