



# Chip Shots

**The Official Newsletter of Bartram Trail Golf Club**

**March / April 2020**

**Editor: Scott Skadan**



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

**March / April 2020**

**Dear Bartram Trail Golf Club Members,**

**Members, you truly don't realize how much I appreciate you, and your membership at Bartram Trail Golf Club. We have had to endure another tremendously wet and rainy January and February and the membership has undoubtedly been the reason that Bartram Trail Golf Club has been able to "weather this storm". With Bartram Trail being a public course we normally have a high number of rounds played by non-members, however with so much rain so far this year public play has been minimal. I can't thank you, our members, enough for your steadfast support of Bartram Trail Golf Club.**

**One thing I would like to share with each of you is that when members approach me and request a leave of absence it affects the club. Of course we understand there may be medical reasons and issues, and I'll gladly work with you if I can, but please know your membership is important to the health of the club. We have been the most affordable golf course in the area, and we will continue to be, so I just wanted you to know how vital your membership is to the success of the club.**

**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.**

**The members MAKE Bartram Trail Golf Club the great place it is. We value your membership and hope that you are enjoying Bartram Trail Golf Club.**

**See you soon!**

**Robby Watson, Head Pro / GM**

# **Bartram Trail Golf Club**

## **New Teaching Pro, Doug Cameron**

You will be seeing a new face in the Pro Shop and practice area at Bartram Trail Golf Club as we welcome Doug Cameron to Bartram Trail. Doug is no stranger to the area, having previously worked at the training facility at Jones Creek.

Doug born and raised in southern Michigan, and graduated from Western Michigan University. He started his PGA career in St. Louis and his first opportunity as Head Golf Professional was at Racine County Club in Racine, Wisconsin. Doug and his family moved to Evans, Georgia 15 years ago.



**Doug Cameron**

Doug is a Class A PGA of America Professional and has been a member of the PGA of over 40 years. When you talk with Doug you can truly feel the passion he has for this great game. "Teaching has always been a passion of mine, and my background includes teaching players of all ages and skill levels," said Cameron. One of his prize students is Xavier Perez, who will be featured in upcoming PSA commercials for junior golf that will be seen throughout the country as The Masters approaches.

"The first step is to understand your needs and expectations for your golf swing/game. I offer private lessons, golf schools and small group clinics. Bartram Trail GC is fully equipped to help you in all parts of the game including full swing, putting, chipping, pitching, sand game, on-course strategy and formulating a game plan for you to reach your specific golfing goals. Private instruction is offered year round which includes video analysis," said Cameron.

"I hope that by providing a sound basis from which to improve your golf game, your learning experience will only add to your lifelong enjoyable memories of this great game. Schedule your private lesson and drive your game to a higher level." Call 706-210-4681 to schedule your lesson.



## **Bartram Trail Golf Club**

### **Members Pro Shop Special**



**BUY TWO GOLF GLOVES AND GET ONE FREE!!!**

(available in March Only...no additional discount)





# Bartram Trail Clubhouse Bar and Grille

*By Janie Toole*



The arrival of Spring is just around the corner and if you are like most of us it can't come soon enough! With Spring comes fresh air, fresh flowers, and fresh new menu items at Bartram Trail Bar and Grille!

## **New Hours...**

*The Clubhouse hours as we move into Spring and Summer will be 7:00am-7:00pm everyday but Thursday. On Thursday's we'll be staying open until 9:00pm so you and your family can join us for dinner or simply stop by for a cocktail on the deck, where you can enjoy a cool spring evening and watch the sunset over our beautiful course.*

## **Thursday, March 19th...Prime Rib Dinner!**

*Plan to join us for our famous Prime Rib Dinner. Be on the lookout for an email with all the details, and make your reservation.*

## **Wine, Dine and Nine will return after Masters Week...**

*Wine, Dine and Nine is a night of fun on the course and in the Clubhouse. Enjoy nine holes of golf, dinner and wine on a wonderful Spring night. We'll be sending out info so stay tuned!*

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

We LOVE feedback, so if you have any thoughts or comments that you would like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I look forward to an exciting and eventful spring season!

Cheers!

Janie



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.

# ***What's Happening Behind the Scenes...***

***With Golf Course Superintendent Darren Davenport***



**Darren Davenport**

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

- Work on the course has been very dependent on the weather this winter as we have had over 13" of rain so far in 2020, which about 6" above normal. The greens have held up extremely well through all the rain. We have not seen any black algae which can certainly happen in those conditions.
- We have completed putting out our pre-emergence on the course. Beginning in the first week of March we will put down our starter fertilizer on the greens to stimulate their growth. Once the grass starts growing again we will have our first aeration on June 1st.
- Last fall we got a new bush hog, and when it was dry enough we were able to get out there and clean up a number of areas around the course.
- Many of you have noticed that we recently added "ball retrievers" at the bottom of the flagsticks. For those that like to keep the flag in it is now easier to retrieve your ball out of the hole. Please pull the flag out of the hole and your ball will come with it on the ball retriever. By lifting the flag out of the hole, instead of reaching in pulling your ball out with the flag still in the cup, it will keep damage to the hole to a minimum.
- We have also put out all new tee markers on all 18 holes. The new markers were made by Bartram Trail member Glen Frosthalm. Thanks Glen, they look great!
- Just before Masters Week we will be putting out new flagsticks, cups and flags.
- All the mowers have been gone over and are in great condition and are ready to cut some grass!

## **For the Homeowners:**

Homeowners should be putting pre-emerge out as well between now and March 15th. Once you put your pre-emerge out, wait one week and then put your fertilizer down. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

**Thanks,  
Darren**



***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.***



# Bartram Trail Senior Men's Golf Association (BTSMGA)

By Bob Prange

The Bartram Trail Senior Men's Association recently completed their 2019 Tournament Season with the Top 4 competitors in each flight squaring off in Foursomes and going head to head for all the marbles, When the dust settled these golfers rose to the top of their respective fields:

**Player of the Year Award** went to Jimmy Harper who edged out three other players on the final day to take home the honors with the overall best performance throughout the entire season.

**Most Improved "A" Flight** was Pete Hamilton with a 12.5% improvement for the year.

**Most Improved "B" Flight**, Sammy Testino took the honors with an 8% improvement.

**Most Improved "C" Flight** went to Robert Medlin who dialed in his game and came up 33.33%!

**Most Improved "D" Flight** was clinched by new member Jim See who also steadily improved throughout the year posting a 33.33% improvement.

**"Top Money Winner"** award went to Chuck Purkey who managed to stay consistently in the pay line and pocketed a small fortune of \$303 for the year.

The final category is the **"Iron Man"** award which goes to the player stubborn enough to get out of bed and show up regardless of the conditions. This award went to Bob Prange.

All winners were feted and rewarded at our Annual "End of the Year Tournament, Banquet and Awards Show".

For the 2019 season the Old Timers also scored an amazing 11 "Holes-In-One"...knocking it in the jar this year were:

Duck Herron	#14	Jim Lewis	#14 (his second of the year!)
Tom Shepherd	#8	Bob Ellis	#16
Jim Lewis	#4	David Hawkins	#12
Reynold Borseth	#16	Jack Totten	#16
Pete Hamilton	#17	Jackie Snell	#8
Bobby Luquire	#8		

The Bartram Trail Senior Men's Association is open to all golfers 55 and older. We have approximately 115 active members. We offer Senior Golfers to play in a fun and competitive yet casual atmosphere with a handicapped format which allows all players to compete regardless of their skill level. We play three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with a variety of formats that allow for individual as well as team events. Dues and entry fees are very reasonable.

If you are interested, contact Bob Prange (bprange01@yahoo.com) or contact the Bartram Trail Clubhouse at 706-210-4681.



**Matthew Barman**



**Doug Cameron**



**Robby Watson**



**Bill Fumai**



## Tip From The Pro "Keep It Simple"

By: Matthew Barman, PGA



Time to knock off that Winter Rust? Everyone has those rounds of golf when they say, "I should have played better." Actually I cannot recall the last person who said, "I hit it perfect and made everything I looked at." That's because it does...not...happen! What about those rounds when you have a great game going only to start steering the ball away from hole squandering a potential career score?

All golfers have had the moment of internal insanity, making them want to scream, curse or toss a club? Remember that golf is just a game. Take a breath, and relax.

This Spring, let's improve the way we approach the game. Keep it simple. Refer to the easier concepts that you know you can execute properly: the grip, stance, ball position. After your setup, play the game your way. Why does simplifying perhaps the most complicated game make sense?

Everyone is different in the forms of size, shape, strength, athleticism, coordination, ect. In fact, all these differences have led people learn different ways to play golf. Some people fade the ball, while others draw the ball. Some people hit a high ball and others hit a lower ball flight. Some players are pickers, meaning that they sweep the ball off the grass blades, while others are diggers, removing real estate each time they hit. But the most important function of these differences is discerning which works best for you. Find that difference, or way that you play golf, and own it! Remember, there are no pictures on the scorecard, so keep it simple, repeatable and fun!

**Call the Bartram Trail Pro Shop to book a lesson at 706-210-4681**

## Group Outings

If you have a group that is looking to have an outing at Bartram Trail

Contact Robby Watson at the Pro Shop at 706-210-4681



# Bartram Trail Men's Golf Association (BTMGA)

By Scott Skadan

Recently we held our annual "State of the BTMGA Meeting" at the Bartram Trail Clubhouse and our president, Russell Maddox, shared with the group what was happening with the BTMGA, and what to look forward to in 2020.

Here are the items he touched on:

1. Points...As most everyone is aware of now, we changed the points for birdies from 4 points to 3 points at the beginning of the year. We are going to continue to monitor the change to make sure it doesn't penalize one group (high handicaps) over the other (low handicaps). We believe so far that the change is working fine, but again, we will continue to monitor it.
2. Paul Hudson is joining the Board of Directors of the BTMGA taking the place of former Tournament Director, Doug Coleman
3. All BTMGA Tournaments will be run by a committee made up of a minimum of three BTMGA Board Members
  - A. We will use the Men's Group Points System for ALL BTMGA tournaments
  - B. You MUST be a member of the BTMGA to eligible to participate in ANY BTMGA Tournament
    - A. No special guests...everyone must be a member
  - C. All BTMGA Tournament prizes will be Cash Money Prizes moving forward
4. Last year over \$26,000 passed through the BTMGA...not an insignificant number at all!
5. Back when the BTMGA, and the BTMGA Board of Directors was first established (many, many years ago), Joe Montano, the first president of the BTMGA Board of Directors (of which myself, John Bock and I believe Pete Hamilton were a part of) said that we wanted to continue to promote Junior Golf with a portion of the proceeds from the BTMGA membership and tournaments. To carry on that platform, Russell Maddox and the BTMGA Board of Directors have partnered with Robby Watson and Bartram Trail Golf Club by sponsoring the BTMGA Junior Golf Tournament, which we will continue to sponsor once again this year. The tournament will once again be held in July, and we encourage BTMGA members to come out and volunteer, as well as ask for donations for the tournament in the form of prizes, and sponsorships. We will have more information about this tournament as it gets closer, but please plan on joining us for this tournament, it's a fantastic opportunity to meet these great junior golfers!

Earlier last week a Go Fund Me page was set up for Donnie Smith's girlfriend, Pam Ashley who is battling cancer. (I believe this was set up by BTMGA Member Barry Davis but I'm not 100% sure). Barry Davis spoke to the BTMGA on Saturday and shared what Pam is going through, and the personal struggle that it is causing Pam, Donnie and their family. Barry spoke eloquently on their behalf and encouraged, and challenged us to give whatever we can if we desired to, to help. Well, Donnie called me last night, and I don't mind telling you that he was in tears when he shared this with me, but through the generosity of BTMGA members and their families, that over \$4,500 was given from BTMGA members and their families. THANK YOU from Donnie Smith and Pam. Donnie wanted me to share with each of you how much this means to them, and that he can't thank each of us enough for everything. He's at a loss for words as to how to express his love and thanks to each of you. Our BTMGA group is so much more than a group of golfers, it's a group of men that truly care for each other and it certainly shows in times of need.

Please also keep fellow BTMGA member Richard Felder in your thoughts and prayers as well. We love you Richard, and we look forward to seeing you at Bartram Trail soon!

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 8:15 until Masters Week and then we move to 7:15am. We play a points system that makes it equitable for all skill levels and new members are always welcome! Come join us on Saturday mornings, you'll have a great time!

# Bartram Trail 2020 PGA Junior League Schedule

**PGA Jr. League #1**—March 10-May 3 (This session is FULL)

Practices on Tuesday's and Wednesday's with Matches on Sunday evenings. Ages are from 6-13. Limited to 40 juniors. Cost is: \$285.00 per person. You must register thru [Pgajrleague.com](http://Pgajrleague.com)

**PGA Jr. League #2**—May 5 thru June 21

Practices are on Tuesday's and Wednesday's with Matches on Sunday evenings. Ages are from 6-13 years old. Session is limited to 40 juniors. Cost is \$285 per person. Deadline for registration is April 20, 2020. First time registrants must register through [Pgajrleague.com](http://Pgajrleague.com), participants from first session register with Coach Bill @ \$225.00 per person.

**PGA Jr. League #3**—July 14-August 30

Practices are on Tuesday's and Wednesday's with Matches on Sunday evenings. Ages 6-13. Limited to 40 juniors. Cost is \$250.00 per person.

**PGA Jr. League #4**—September 15-November 15

Practices are on Tuesday's and Wednesday's with Matches on Sunday evenings. Ages 6-13. Limited to 40 juniors. Cost is \$275.00 per person. Register with Coach Bill in the Pro Shop.

All leagues include range balls during practice and matches, instruction, golf matches, and a game day shirt, and finally a GSGA Youth on Course card. Please contact Coach Bill for his 2019 PGA Jr. Leagues at [billfumai@gmail.com](mailto:billfumai@gmail.com) or call 706-691-3397.

**Contact:** Bill Fumai     706-691-3397



**PGA Junior League participants from 2019**