

SPRING 2004

WHERE

ATTRACTIONS, DESTINATIONS, EVENTS, DINING, LODGING

GEORGIA

Blackwater Paddling in the Okefenokee Swamp

THE WRITE STUFF
Tour Georgia's
literary legacy

SPRING GREENS
Augusta has the
Masters® and more

ADVENTURE TRAILS
Hanging tough on
Lookout Mountain

PHOTO OP
Discover "The
Other Savannah"

Augusta in the **SPRING**



Golf fans coming out of winter hibernation consider the Masters as much a sign of spring as daffodils starting to bloom. *By Patrick Jones*

GOLF GREATS PAST AND PRESENT, INCLUDING TIGER WOODS (BELOW), HAVE ALL SWUNG THROUGH AUGUSTA.

The former commercial plant nursery of a Belgian baron — 365 acres in Augusta, Ga., situated just off present-day Washington Road — captures the attention of golf fans around the world every year in early spring.

The horticultural site of Fruitland Nurseries, owned in the 1800s by Baron Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans, now yields major championships. The fertile land was transformed by Atlanta golfing legend Bob Jones, Clifford Roberts and Scottish architect Alister Mackenzie into Augusta National Golf Club in 1932. Amidst towering

magnolias and blooming azaleas, which have dominated the property for over a century, the Masters® Tournament is held annually during the first full week of April.

Some of the greatest moments in golf have unfolded on this hallowed and pristinely maintained property. Gene Sarazen's double-eagle 2 on the par-5 15th hole in the final round of the 1935 tournament is one of the game's most legendary shots.

Byron Nelson edged Ben Hogan by one stroke in an 18-hole playoff in 1942 before the tournament was suspended for three years during the war. Arnie's Army took the forefront in 1958 as Palmer, followed by his cadre of zealous fans, charged to the first of his first four Masters wins.

Jack Nicklaus took over from King Arnie in the '60s, though his most memorable victory, his sixth at the Masters, didn't come until 1986 when The Golden Bear was 46. Nicklaus roared back to win on the back nine with his son Jackie carrying his bag and leading the deafening cheers.

Tiger Woods thrashed the field in 1997 for his first major title and the first of his three Masters victories.

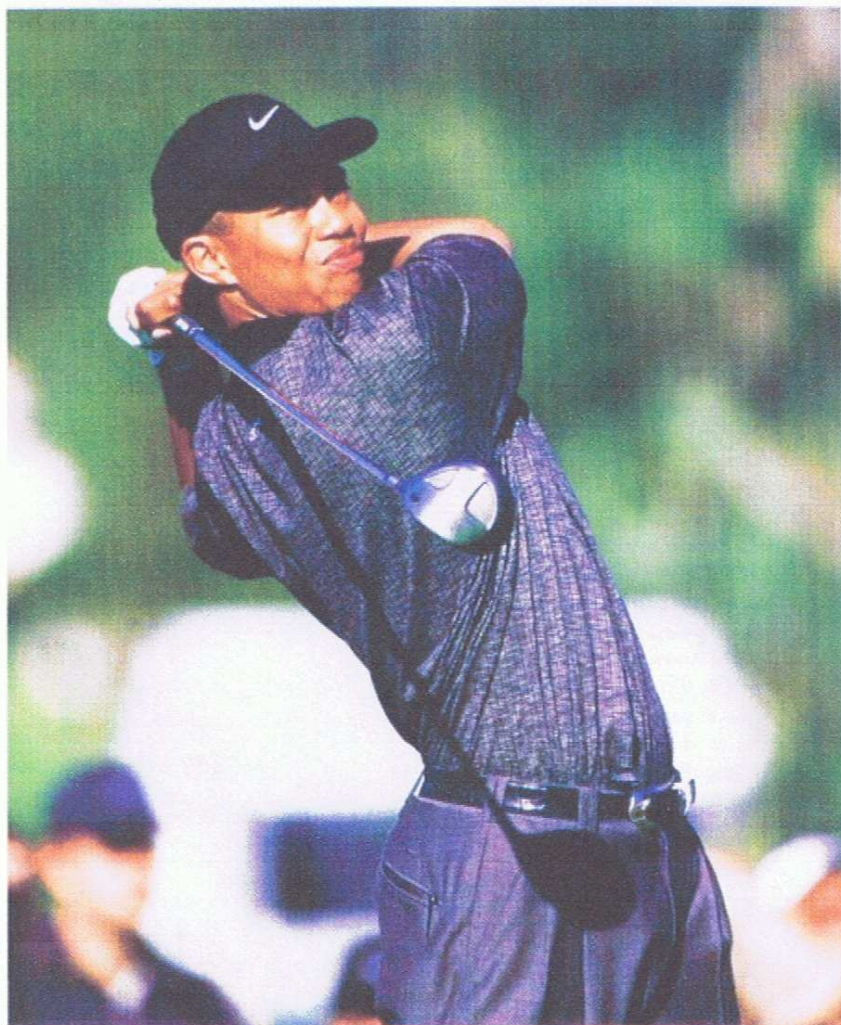
Sam Snead, the 1949 winner, was the first to wear the Green Jacket, a tradition that has become synonymous with being the Masters champion. The previous year's winner assists the new champion with donning the Green Jacket following the conclusion of the event.

As one of golf's four major championships, along with the U.S. Open, British Open (also called just The Open) and the PGA Championship, the Masters Tournament is arguably the game's most prestigious. There are 17 specific requirements golfers must meet to earn an invitation. Getting into the Masters as a spectator has long been considered the toughest ticket in all of sports.

The tournament has the distinct advantage of being the first major on the calendar. Golf fans coming out of winter hibernation consider the Masters as much a sign of spring-time as daffodils starting to bloom.

True to its literal roots, the Masters has named each of its holes after a plant, flower or tree that is found on the Augusta National property. No. 2, a 575-yard par-5, is Pink Dogwood. Magnolia is the dogleg left par-4 fifth hole. Its inspiration was the Road Hole at the Old Course at St. Andrews. Playing to 455 yards, it is considered one of the toughest par-4s on the course, though Nicklaus managed to hole out from the fairway for eagle twice in the 1995 tournament.

No. 10, Camellia, is a downhill, 495-yard par-4 that was originally the opening hole at Augusta National prior to



1935. It serves as the first playoff hole and was the scene of Canadian Mike Weir's triumph over Len Mattiace in 2003.

The following three holes — Nos. 11, 12, 13 — were labeled Amen Corner by golf writer Herbert Warren Wind in *Sports Illustrated* during the 1958 tournament. It is a difficult stretch of golf that historically has played a pivotal role in determining the winner in Sunday's final round. The waters of Rae's Creek become a factor on this triumvirate, and many a potential champion has seen their chances dashed with a ball into the water.

No. 11 is likely best remembered for Augusta native Larry Mize's long distance chip-in to win the 1987 event in a playoff against Greg Norman. Mize's dramatic win is just another of the memorable moments that have taken place in the previous 67 years of the Masters Tournament.

South African Gary Player became the first international winner of the event in 1961.


Roberto De Vicenzo signed an incorrect scorecard in 1968, disqualifying him from a playoff with victorious Bob Goalby. In 1975, Lee Elder became the first black player to compete in the Masters.

Ben Crenshaw, saddened and inspired following the death of his lifelong teacher Harvey Penick earlier in the week, won his second Green Jacket in 1995. In '96, nine years after having victory snatched from him by Mize, Norman gave one away when he let a six-stroke lead evaporate in the final round as Nick Faldo won for the third time.

Many Augusta National landmarks are part of golfing lore. Magnolia Lane, the main entrance to the clubhouse, is lined with magnolia trees planted prior to the Civil War. A 65-foot loblolly pine on No. 17 is called the Eisenhower Tree after a club member (former president Dwight David Eisenhower, nonetheless, asked that it be cut down because his tee shot found it so often).

Butler Cabin, just off the 18th green, is the site of the Green Jacket ceremony that is televised on CBS each year following the tournament.

You are one of the fortunate few if you have tickets to the Thursday through Sunday tournament rounds. Many fans have been on the waiting list for decades. Tickets to the pre-tournament practice rounds and Wednesday's traditional Par 3 Contest can be had by signing up for a lottery and crossing your fingers that you are chosen.

Sessions early in the week, though lacking the drama of the final rounds, can provide great entertainment. Players are relaxed and oftentimes pair up with their buddies to get a feel for the course prior to the serious grinding when scores count. Chances are you might be able to follow a group that includes former champs Nicklaus, Palmer and Player reminiscing and mingling with the gallery in a relaxed atmosphere. Details on the practice ticket application process can be found on the Masters official Web site at www.masters.org. 



IF YOU GO

There is no shortage of places to stay in and around Augusta (Georgia's second-largest city), from local hotels to bed and breakfasts to homes available for rent during Masters week. Online hotel reservations for the Master Tournament can be made by calling 800 365 7273.

Two choice spots for lodging, both located in downtown Augusta along the Savannah River, are the Country Suites Riverwalk and the Radisson Riverfront Hotel Augusta. A bevy of chain hotels and motels are located outside the gates of Augusta National, clustered along Washington Road.

Metropolitan Augusta has over 300 restaurants that cover the gamut in price and cuisine.

Damon's Grill on Washington Road offers steaks, chicken, seafood and ribs that, for four years in a row, have been voted the best by *Augusta Magazine*. For Southern home-style cooking, try Hot Foods by Calvin on Broad Street; make sure to try the gumbo. The Partridge Inn has an excellent Sunday buffet and is a hot spot for jazz music. Barbeque from Sconyers BBQ held such sway over President Jimmy Carter that he had some flown to him for consumption while he occupied the White House. Other top dining options include U.B.'s, Villa Europa, and Bee's Knees.

While the Masters Tournament is undoubtedly Augusta's main attraction, there are plenty of other sights to see in this city, which is diverse enough to be the home of James Brown (the "Godfather of Soul"), the birthplace — (in nearby Harlem, Ga.) — of Oliver Hardy of Laurel & Hardy fame and the boyhood home of President Woodrow Wilson.

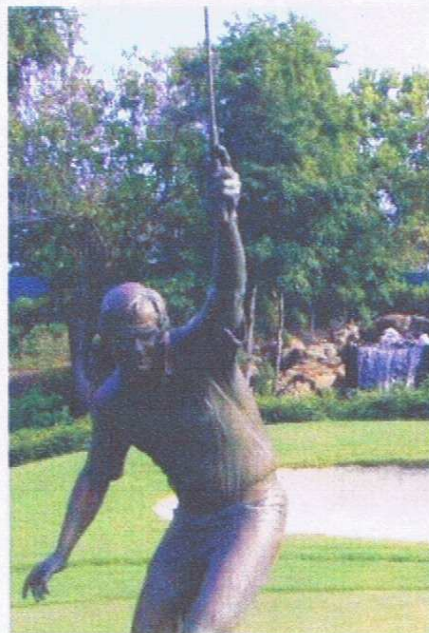
Be sure to visit Augusta Riverwalk, a two-tiered park along the Savannah River levee. The lower level features a 1,600-seat outdoor amphitheater for concerts and performances, a children's playground, a replica paddlewheel boat and a Japanese garden. Heroes' Overlook, a celebration of this country's armed forces, is a highlight of the upper level.

Golfers won't want to miss another Riverwalk attraction, the eight-acre Augusta Golf and Gardens, featuring a wide variety of gardens (Asian, aquatic, formal, rose, azalea, coastal, butterfly), waterfalls, fountains and bronzed, bigger-than-life sculptures of previous Masters champions and golf greats including Jones, Nelson, Hogan, Nicklaus, Palmer and Raymond Floyd.

When most golf fans are not watching golf, they are playing it. Tee times can be arranged at public and semi-private courses, including Augusta Golf Course, Forest Hills Golf Club and Goshen Plantation Golf Course, among a few of the numerous choices available.

Additional information on lodging, dining, shopping, recreation and other local attractions can be found on the Augusta Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau Web site at www.augustaga.org.

Tickets to the Masters — you have to locate those on your own.



TAKE A BREAK FROM GOLF AND STROLL RIVERWALK (ABOVE) OR VISIT AUGUSTA GOLF AND GARDENS (LEFT AND RIGHT).