

# FRONTIERGOLF

Build. Renovate. Innovate.

Vol. VIII, ISSUE I

WINTER 2007

The new 5th at Kiawah's River Course



Courtesy of Kiawah Development Partners@Steve Uzzell

## Fazio, Frontier retool River Course

**K**IAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The River Course at the exclusive Kiawah Island Club has reopened for member play following an unprecedented renovation effort directed by Frontier Golf, in collaboration with golf course superintendent Jim Musci, Fazio Golf Course Designers and Champion Turf.

The River Course project, completed over Labor Day Weekend 2006, was notable both for its time frame and agronomic innovation. Frontier reshaped and regrassed all 18 greens with Champion ultra dwarf Bermuda and completely rebuilt four putting surfaces — this entire process was completed in 25 days last June. Once the greens work was finished,

Frontier together with Champion implemented a regrassing of all 18 fairways, collars and tees with Emerald, a new greens-grade dwarf Bermuda from Champion Turf — Emerald had never before been used on fairways and collars.

For good measure, Frontier rebuilt all the bunkers at the River Course and regrassed their faces with Empire zoysiagrass. Frontier also worked closely with Fazio's Andy Banfield to author significant strategic changes to the course.

"We closed down the course after the season-ending member-guest on May 22, and we reopened for the season-opening member-guest on Oct. 1," said Musci, superintendent at the

Continued on page 3

## Ground broken on new S.C. 18

**L**ANCASTER, S.C. — Edgewater, an 18-hole golf community, is now under construction along the shores of Fishing Creek Lake in Lancaster County, South Carolina, about 40 miles south of Charlotte.

Frontier Golf broke ground on the course in January. The layout is centerpiece of an 1,800-acre master-planned community that already boasts two phases of infrastructure development with a total build-out of roughly 2,000 residential units over the next six to eight years. With construction now in full swing, a completion date is scheduled for Oct. 1.

Bruce Brodsky of PBS&J, the renowned multi-disciplinary engineering firm with offices throughout the country, handled the course design, routing and construction plans for the owner, Craft Development of Monroe, N.C. The routing affords panoramic views of the lake and incorporates a beautiful pine forest. The major topographic

Continued on page 2

## FRONTIERGOLF / inside

### frontiergolf.com

Behold, Frontier's new website and logo, unveiled to mark the firm's 15th anniversary in the golf industry ..... **2**

### Southeastward Ho!

Frontier Golf hits the ground running with its new Southeast Division headed by respected industry veteran Rich Abbott ..... **3**

### Classic Restoration ... **4**



Chris John

# Marking 15 great years

BY NICK SCIGLIANO  
PRESIDENT, FRONTIER GOLF

**T**his newsletter celebrates Frontier's 15th anniversary in the golf business. It's hard to believe it's been that long since we performed our first work back at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh, Pa.

At the time, I never envisioned the successes that Frontier would achieve, let alone where we would find our second project! I was confident in one fact, however. If we performed our work to the highest standard, it would sell itself and Frontier with it. With 15 years behind us, I guess I was right.

To celebrate, and to position our firm for the future, we have decided to formally adopt our trade name, Frontier Golf, along with a new logo, color scheme and website. After all, golf is what we do exclusively, better than anyone — so Frontier Golf says it best. Please visit our new site at [www.frontiergolf.com](http://www.frontiergolf.com),



Nick Scigliano

where you will find all the information you'll ever need regarding our company, its history,

our ongoing work, and how to get in touch. This iteration of the website is just the first step. In the coming months, we'll be adding to our web presence with project profiles, media coverage, photography from our finished projects and project updates. Soon the site will contain everything you'll need to know if you're considering Frontier for your next construction or renovation project.

**Frontier Golf: Build. Renovate. Innovate.** It's what we've always done, and will continue to do, long into the future.

## White Witch gets Frontier rehab



The 17th at the White Witch

**M**ONTEGO BAY, Jamaica — Frontier Golf has a major rescue job underway at the White Witch Golf Course, centerpiece of the Rosehall Resort here on Jamaica's south coast.

Named for Annee Palmer — the 19<sup>th</sup> century beauty and supposedly supernatural mistress of Rosehall — the White Witch is carved from 600 acres of lush greenery and rolling countryside. The six-year-old Robert Von Hagge design

features panoramic views of the Caribbean from 16 of its 18 tropical holes.

Unfortunately, the Marriott-managed property was severely damaged by a 20-inch rainfall during a recent hurricane. The 18<sup>th</sup> hole was particularly hard hit by the storm. The fairway basically "slid off the mountainside," according to Frontier Golf President Nick Scigliano. All that remains is a tee, a small slice of fairway and the green, which has allowed

limited play on the finishing hole to continue.

Frontier is now in the process of rebuilding the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway so the closing hole matches the rest of the layout, which is considered among the Caribbean's most scenic. "It is a very difficult project," Scigliano said. "We had to find the material that slid off the fairway and put it back along with new fairway materials, drainage, irrigation and grass."

The first phase began in November with the installation of drainage pipe to stabilize the area. Frontier crews will return after the peak tourist season, probably in early April, to complete the job.

"It is a very tricky area and a very technical engineering job," Scigliano said. "The design is almost secondary. We have to cut and fill to an average 20 feet. We'll rebuild it right, so it stays there — with large-diameter pipe, catch basins and French drains throughout fairways. These measures will better protect it in the future."

### Edgewater

Continued from page 1

feature is a series of natural-erosion channels that wind their way through the property and should add to the challenge. Construction will require moving less than 200,000 cubic yards of dirt, an important consideration near a lake that resulted from a dam placed across the Catawba River. The greens will be planted with

bentgrass and the fairways with bermudagrass. "This is a transition-zone course, which is always interesting when it comes to grass selection," said Frontier Golf President Nick Scigliano. "We have done numerous projects in this part of the country and agreed a bentgrass/bermudagrass combination would work well in this situation."

A grand opening is scheduled for spring 2008.

## Abbott heads Frontier Southeast

**C**AMDEN, S.C. — Frontier Golf has expanded its scope by opening a Southeast U.S. Division headed by veteran contractor Rich Abbott, who assumes the title of president, Frontier Golf Southeast Division.

Abbott and Frontier have hit the ground running with several high-profile projects already completed, including major renovations at The River Course (see p. 1) and Keowee Key Golf & Country Club (see p. 4). Frontier Golf's Southeast Division can be reached at 803-432-5755, [r.abbott@frontiergolf.com](mailto:r.abbott@frontiergolf.com).

"The course renovation market in the Southeastern United States is a strong one,



but we felt we couldn't commit resources to that region until we found the right person to run it — in Rich Abbott, we've found the perfect person," said Nick Scigliano, president of Jones Mills, Pa.-based Frontier Golf. "Rich brings a wealth of experience to Frontier and an obsession with quality, not to mention the regional contacts we need to be successful that in that part of the country."

"It's tough to make inroads here in the Southeast if you're not a good ol' boy. That's where I come in," Abbott added. "Nick's philosophy on construction and my philosophy on construction are one and the same: It's all about quality. We

don't want to do it all; we just want to do it right. I think the temptation is there to staff up and go to work anywhere — but you don't want to subject your reputation to that.

"We're turning work away right now because we don't want to lose control of the quality we're committed to produce."

A 1988 graduate of Lake City (Fla.) Community College, Abbott began his career with Course Doctors out of Hendersonville, N.C., then started his own company, Phase One Development, in 1998, before joining Malphrus Golf out of Hilton Head in 2002, as Southeast project manager.

"The most gratifying thing about joining forces with Frontier is that we agree on what quality is — in course construction, you don't know what that is until you've achieved it," Abbott said.

## The River Course

Continued from page 1

Fazio-designed River Course since the day it opened, in 1995. "We were on a tight time frame but Frontier delivered. They met every deadline we had to meet: 3.5 acres of greens in 25 days; planted all the fairways in 10 days, then took on the tees and bunkers. It was just about the perfect project."

In conjunction with the major agronomic changes, Frontier dedicated a special crew to shadow Banfield as they tackled the major redesign issues: repositioning no. 1 green closer to the lagoon; expansion of no. 4 green to create a new, back pin location; replacement of the double greens at no. 5 with a single green complex; elevation of tee boxes on 7, to provide a better visibility; expanding no. 8 green to the right, bringing Bass Pond more into play and replacing a waste area fronting the green with a formal bunker; and restoration of the green at 11 to its original size, expanding it back left and center, while replacing the green-fronting waste area with a single pot bunker.

"On the putting green reconstructions, we cored the greens, literally built them up with native material so Andy Banfield could see what they looked like at finished grade, then we cored it all out again and rebuilt them" said Frontier Southeast President Rich Abbott, who singled out shaper Rusty Lee and project super Brent Bagwell for their stellar performances on Kiawah. "This job couldn't have been done without superior planning. By noon the first day of that project, we had three greens excavated out. From there we never looked back."



The new 3rd at Kiawah's River Course

## Frontier busy across the Mid-Atlantic

**F**rontier Golf may have expanded into the Southeast, Midwest and Caribbean, but it remains a Pennsylvania-based company (Jones Mills, to be exact) and the firm has stayed active in its backyard: the Mid-Atlantic area.

At **WHITFORD COUNTRY CLUB** in Exton, Pa., Frontier recently completed an 18-hole bunker renovation in just 60 days. Working in partnership with architect Ron Forse, Frontier was able to keep the 50-year-old private club open throughout the renovation, which included facelifts to roughly 70 hazards originally designed by the father-son team of William and David Gordon. “We won this project based on our performance at Chester Valley CC just up the road,” said Frontier Business Manager Nick Mazzella. “We returned the bunkers to the original style crafted by the Gordons.”



**TAVISTOCK CC** in Haddonfield, N.J., has undergone a complete restoration of its 1921 Alex Findlay design under the guidance of Frontier and Ron Forse. Frontier oversaw a regrassing off all the tees, greens and fairways. The restoration included bunker and tee work as well as the installation of new cart paths throughout much of the private course, which closed last July and will reopen this May. “It was a very intensive restoration,” Mazzella said. “We used our own GPS resources on one green to carefully rebuild the surface to its original contours, a process we’ve used elsewhere and been very successful with. The whole layout will look and feel like the original but with modern construction components.”



VINTAGE  
DETAILS

Chris John (2)



Square tees, chocolate drops: Must be a classic renovation, and no one does it better than Frontier. Case in point: the Donald Ross-designed Bedford (Pa.) Springs Resort, restored by Frontier following plans from architect Ron Forse. It reopens this spring. Look for more details in the next issue of Frontier Golf.



A short timeframe and considerable hand labor were the challenges faced in refurbishing 102 bunkers at the private **FIELDSTONE GOLF CLUB** in Wilmington, Del. “We were asked to preserve all the original bunker linings, which obliged us to use extensive hand labor,” Mazzella said of the 10-year-old Hurdzan-Fry design. The club’s operator, Troon Golf, also asked Frontier to improve the drainage systems associated with many of the bunkers. Still, Frontier completed this fall’s bunker and drainage work in just two months. “We’ll need to return in the spring, but only to rebuild 12 stacked-sod bunker faces,” Mazzella added.

## Keowee Key reopens Jan. 1

**S**ALEM, S.C. — Keowee Key Golf & Country Club reopened on schedule, Jan. 1, following an 18-hole renovation executed by Frontier Golf with architect Richard Mandell. The green complexes, including bunkers and surrounds, were the focus; two new fairways and six sets of tees were also central to the refurbishment of this 30-year-old George Cobb/John LaFoy design.

Located in the South Carolina foothills near the Georgia border, the new Keowee Key features bermudagrass fairways and Crenshaw/L-93 bentgrass greens. Frontier also installed drainage pipes varying up to 30 inches in diameter to deal with the occasionally large rainfalls that strike the area.

“We had a 100-year storm in late June that basically forced us to go back and redo five greens,” recalled Rich Abbott, president of Frontier’s Southeast Division. “It also washed out the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway. We were still able to finish construction within a week of our original schedule and open the course on our target date of Jan. 1.”