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GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

The Masters Tournament
April 4 - 10, 2011

Augusta National Golf Club
Augusta, Ga.

Golf Course Management Information

GCSAA Class A Golf Course Superintendent:
Brad Owen

Availability to media:
Contact Steve Ethun by phone 706-667-6700

Education:
A.S., Turfgrass Management,
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, Pa., 1987

Years as a GCSAA member: 25

GCSAA affiliated chapter:
Georgia Golf Course Superintendents
Association

Years at this course: 24

Previous positions:
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent,
Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta,
Ga.

Previous tournament preparation:
1987-2010 Masters Tournament,
Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta,
Ga.

Previous events hosted by facility:
1987-2010 Masters Tournament

Course statistics

Average tee size: 1,500 sq. ft.

Average green size: 6,435 sq. ft.

Soil conditions:
Sand-based tees and clay fairways

Green construction soil mix:
USGA (90% sand; 10% peat)

Acres of fairway: 100
Source of water: Pond, river

Acres of rough: 40
Drainage conditions: Good

Sand bunkers: 44

Water hazards:
6 (on hole Nos. 2, 11, 12, 13, 15 & 16)

Course ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Regular	6365	72	n/a	n/a
Masters	7435	72	n/a	n/a

Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Perennial ryegrass	0.315"
Fairways	Perennial ryegrass	0.380"
Greens	Bentgrass	0.125"
Rough	Perennial ryegrass	1.38"

Wildlife on the course

Armadillo; Beaver; Blue heron; Coyote; Fish; Fox; Groundhog; Hawk; Mole; Muskrat; Rabbit; Raccoon; Several different species of birds; Snakes; Squirrel; Turtle; Woodpecker

Interesting and historical course-related facts

Upon his retirement from championship golf in 1930, Bob Jones had hoped to realize his dream of building a golf course. Following a brief conversation with Clifford Roberts, with whom Jones had met several times in the mid-1920s, it was decided the club would be built



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near Augusta, Ga., provided a suitable piece of ground was available. According to Jones' plans, the course would utilize the natural advantages of the property and use mounds rather than too many bunkers. Severe rough was not to be incorporated and it was hoped the property would have a natural creek to use as a water hazard. Jones wanted this concept of golf course architecture to make a contribution to the game, as well as give expression to his ideas about golf course design. Augusta National would be open during the winter season only.

A mutual friend of Jones and Roberts, Thomas Barrett Jr., was consulted and recommended a 365-acre property called Fruitland Nurseries. Once an indigo plantation, it was purchased in 1857 by Belgian Baron Louis Mathieu Edouard Berckmans who was a horticulturist by hobby. Berckmans' son, Prosper Julius Alphonse, was an agronomist and horticulturist by profession and the two formed a partnership in 1858. Operating under the name Fruitland Nurseries, the company imported many trees and plants from various countries. The Baron died in 1883. Prosper's death followed in 1910 and the nursery ceased operations by the time its charter expired in 1918. A great variety of flowering plants and trees, including a long row of magnolias that were planted before the Civil War and a plant Prosper popularized called the azalea, remained on the property.

Upon seeing the property from what is now the practice putting green, Jones said, "Perfect! And to think this ground has been lying here all these years waiting for someone to come along and lay a golf course on it." An option was taken on the property for \$70,000. It was decided to establish a national membership for the club and Jones proposed Augusta National would be an appropriate name. Jones also decided in the planning stage he wanted Dr. Alister Mackenzie of Scotland to serve as the course architect since the pair held similar views. Before coming to Augusta, Mackenzie had designed two courses in California, Pasatiempo and Cypress Point. Mackenzie died after the construction work had been finished, but before Augusta National was fully covered with grass. Construction on the new course began in the first half of 1931 and the course opened in December 1932 with a limited

amount of member play. Formal opening took place in January 1933.

Amen Corner refers to holes 11, 12 and 13. The name "Amen Corner" was coined in 1958 by sportswriter Herbert Warren Wind, who wrote that it was composed of the second half of hole No. 11, hole No. 12 and the first half of hole No. 13. Wind was searching for an appropriate name for the location where the critical action had taken place that year. He borrowed the name from an old jazz recording, "Shouting at Amen Corner."

Rae's Creek was named after John Rae, who died in 1789. Rae's Creek runs in front of the No. 12 green, has a tributary evident at the No. 13 tee and flows at the back of the No. 11 green. It was Rae's house that was the farthest fortress up the Savannah River from Fort Augusta. The house kept residents safe during Indian attacks when the fort was out of reach.

Ike's Pond ... It was during his second visit to Augusta National that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower walked through the woods on the eastern part of the club's property. Upon his return, he informed Clifford Roberts that he had found a perfect place to build a dam if the club ever wanted to have a fish pond. Ike's Pond was promptly built and named, and the dam was located exactly where Ike suggested it should be placed after the construction engineer concurred on its location. The pond occupies three acres and is fed by a spring.

Course architect/date:

Alister Mackenzie and Robert Tyre
Jones Jr., 1933

Most recent redesign/renovation:

Tom Fazio, 2001

Other key course personnel

Marsh Benson,
Sr. Director, Golf Course and Grounds
Justin Sims, Sr. Assistant Superintendent
Asa High, 2nd Assistant Superintendent
Fred Hartenstein, Equipment Manager
William P. Payne, Chairman
Jim Armstrong, Executive Director
Tommy Crenshaw, Director of Horticulture

Tony Sessa, Golf Professional
J.J. Weaver, Golf Professional

Golf course management facts

For additional information please visit the GCSAA [association news](#) section or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, [The Environmental Institute for Golf](#), works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts. Visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org.



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