



# Rock Harbor News

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## How The Masters Began

*Cole Lee, Tournament Director*

Newspaper headlines were full of big names in the spring of 1934.

On the sports pages, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were still belting spring training home runs for the New York Yankees.

At 10:35 a.m. on March 22, 1934, Bobby Jones struck his tee shot on what is now the 10<sup>th</sup> hole at Augusta National. For Jones, much more was at stake than the competition. It was about the club he co-founded, Augusta National, and a tournament, the Masters, that would prove to be his lasting gift to the game. "Most golf courses during the Depression were folding," said Sid Matthew, an attorney and historian. "What a tremendous challenge it was for them to build. And then to make it popular."

Jones had been plotting his retirement for some time, but it still came as a shock to the public when he announced it in late 1930. After all, he was only 28. The pressure of competing in major championship events took a toll on Jones. He was the prohibitive favorite in every event, and he yearned for the day when he could enjoy a game of golf with friends and not be surrounded by thousands of fans. So he and Robert Trent Jones set off to build his dream course. Remarkably, course construction took less than two years. The course opened for limited play in December 1932, and the formal opening was a month later.

The final step was to stage a tournament. Initially, they wanted to bring the U.S. Open to their course, but that didn't happen for a number of reasons. So Jones and Roberts decided to hold their own annual event.

When Jones stepped to the tee for the first round in 1934, he was still the man to beat. At least he was in the minds of the press and the public. In reality, no one knew what to expect from Jones. He had shot 1-under-par 71 in a practice round, and a few weeks before the tournament he had fired an impressive 65. Whether Jones would even play was up for debate. According to the club, he wanted to serve as an official and preferred not to play. But the membership prevailed upon him to join the field.

Jones drew a crowd – *The Chronicle* reported that 900 automobiles representing 38 states and Canada passed through the entrance – but he didn't thrill the gallery with his round of 76. The score left him in the middle of the pack and six shots behind a trio of leaders, including eventual winner Horton Smith. The culprit, according to Keeler's account the next day, was Jones' putting. He required 35 putts, far more than he needed during his prime. His play off the tee and with the longer clubs was fine. Jones "smacked a spoon" onto the green at the par-5 fourth (now 13) and two-putted for a birdie.

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## Fresh From The Grill

*Chip Connelly,  
Director of Food and Beverage:*

Hello food fans! By the time you receive this the Final Four will be over, Major League Baseball will have started and people will be making their Masters' picks; yes, it is officially April. We have had a busy first quarter of the year, and with leagues and tournaments starting up, it will be even busier.

To help accommodate this, we will be keeping the Grill open from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday – Friday. Saturdays will remain 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., with reservation required for service after 7:30 p.m. (don't forget to RSVP anyway to help us prepare).

As summer approach-



es, there will be some new faces this year, so please introduce yourselves and let your servers know your account numbers (and names) to ensure proper billing. As always, we look forward to seeing you, and serving you.

Please RSVP for the Open House/Socials/Mixers NLT the Monday prior by calling The Grill @ 540-722-9678 or emailing Chip @ [chip@rockharborgolf.com](mailto:chip@rockharborgolf.com)

## Pond Repairs in Progress



*Denny Perry*

As you may have noticed, there are some leaks in the ponds on the course. Finding and repairing the leaks in the ponds has been an ongoing problem for some time. During the construction of the ponds we had to do some blasting that caused fractures in the limestone bedrock. After cleaning out the blasted rock we installed clay to form a liner. Everything was fine until crayfish invaded the ponds. Crayfish bore into the clay liner to get away from the predator fish and to have their young. The holes they make are causing the leaks. We are hoping that by introducing more predator fish into the ponds we can eradicate the crayfish.

*More pictures on Page 2 of the insert*



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At the 11th (now 2), he “hit a brassie shot like a ruled line to the distant green, seven feet from the pin – and nearly took three putts.” Short-game woes kept Jones from being a threat. He improved in the second round, shooting 2-over 74, but was eight strokes behind Smith.

Paired with Walter Hagen for the third round, Jones shot even-par 72 but lost the head-to-head battle to Hagen’s 70. The headline in *The Chronicle* read, “Jones Surrenders Final Chance.” In the final round, Jones posted another 72 to finish the tournament at 6-over 294, 10 shots behind Smith. The tie for 13th would be his best showing in 12 Masters appearances.

I hope you enjoy the history of this great place and event like I do. Have a great Masters everyone!!

“In golf, the customs and etiquette and decorum are as important as the rules of play.”

-Bobby Jones



## From The Ground Up

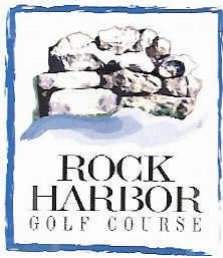
*Bobby Jenkins,  
Course Superintendent:*

It’s that time of year again...we are verticutting, aerifying and top-dressing the greens on The Rock Course, work should be complete by April 1st. The terrible winds, frost and chilly mornings have not deterred our maintenance crew from completing their job. After we finish The Rock course we will wait a week and

start on The Boulder Course, which will last about a week also. You can expect that to begin during the week of April 11-16th. We also wanted to do our pre-emergent weed control on The Rock but the winds put a halt to that. Hopefully we’ll get some showers and good warm weather so The Rock greens can heal quickly.



*View from #1 Rock tee box.*



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To subscribe or unsubscribe to this free newsletter send  
an e-mail to [mistyautumn@comcast.net](mailto:mistyautumn@comcast.net)

**Welcome to New Members**

Tom Salvatore  
Stephen & Hope Brim  
Mike Koontz  
Cody Hall  
Jay & Debbie Winkfield  
Rich Cordero  
Seoung Min Kim & Jin Young  
Roy Gottschalk  
Chris Craig  
Austin Landry  
Walt Mallon  
DJ Lein  
Brian Clarke  
Michael Oates  
Brian Partlow  
Michael Partlow  
Jerry Partlow



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*"The secret of golf is to turn three shots into two."*

*-Bobby Jones*

**Spring Activities for Members**

April 17th Member Opening Day  
April 27th Members Monthly Social  
May 30th Members Memorial Day Event

**Please visit our website for full details  
of each event.**