



Trans-Miss Transcript

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Hill, Dudley
claim play-off
victory on No. 2

30th Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championships

Cont'd on page 3



Greetings

Dear Trans-Miss Golfers and Supporters,



Most avid golfers have an appreciation or interest in the history of golf. I do. In fact, I am old enough now that I can better relate to the game and courses of the 1950s and 60s when you did not have to hit the ball so far on courses in excess of seven thousand yards!

Pinehurst was the perfect setting for our recent group of four-ball contestants. The history and tradition of this first-class American golf resort not only inspires you to play better, but if you don't there are plenty of museum-quality displays to take your mind away from that ugly round. Between the long main hallway of the Carolina Hotel that is adorned with Pinehurst photos of the decades since 1900 (about the same time the Trans-Miss was formed) and the impressive displays in the Resort Clubhouse recalling the championships played there, you have to give a great degree of reverence to this remarkable place.

I extend our thanks to the ownership, management and staff of the Pinehurst Resort for hosting our 2010 Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship in September. The

54-hole competition treated our players to the challenge of courses #2, #4 and #8. A couple of fellow Texans won the championship in a sudden-death playoff, which you can read about in this issue. My fellow Trans-Miss directors John Pigg and Eddie Lyons ran away with the senior division – so borrowing a rule from dog racing, they get bumped up to the mid-am division next year!

This event marked the first time in the history of the TMGA that a competition was held east of the Mississippi, yet we were made to feel right at home.

Thanks to all of you that took the time and incurring the expense to come to Pinehurst and support the event and the association. I know you are glad you did! The TMGA appreciates your participation so that we can keep helping young men and women who are pursuing college degrees in turfgrass management.


It has been a tough year for golf. A combination of weather and climate factors over an unusually long period of time had superintendents from coast-to-coast fighting a good fight. Fortunately the cooler and wetter weather this fall will give them a chance to recover. You can't measure it, but I am sure that many of the hundreds of former Trans-Miss scholars were troops on the front line in this battle! That is why it is so important for our turf schools to keep attracting, educating and graduating bright minds and hard-working young people. It is some new challenge every season!

As to challenges, I will close with this "polite challenge" to you. Our country is going through its own tough stretch economically. We will get through this, but in the meantime our charities and churches still need our financial support. Let's all keep our charitable giving in its traditional high priority place. The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and its Turf Scholarship Fund is pleased to have your financial support.

Keep swinging. If you don't, you'll never get there!

Warmest regards,

Richard Coon
TMGA President

A large background photograph of two men on a golf course. The man on the left is wearing a white bucket hat, a white polo shirt, and light-colored pants. The man on the right is wearing a white visor, a blue and white striped polo shirt, and light-colored pants. They are both looking towards the right. The man on the right is holding a golf ball in his right hand and gesturing with it. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

For the first time in its rich history the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association came to legendary Pinehurst Resort for one of its championships and 54 holes of golf on three of the nationally-renowned facility's courses weren't enough to determine a champion.

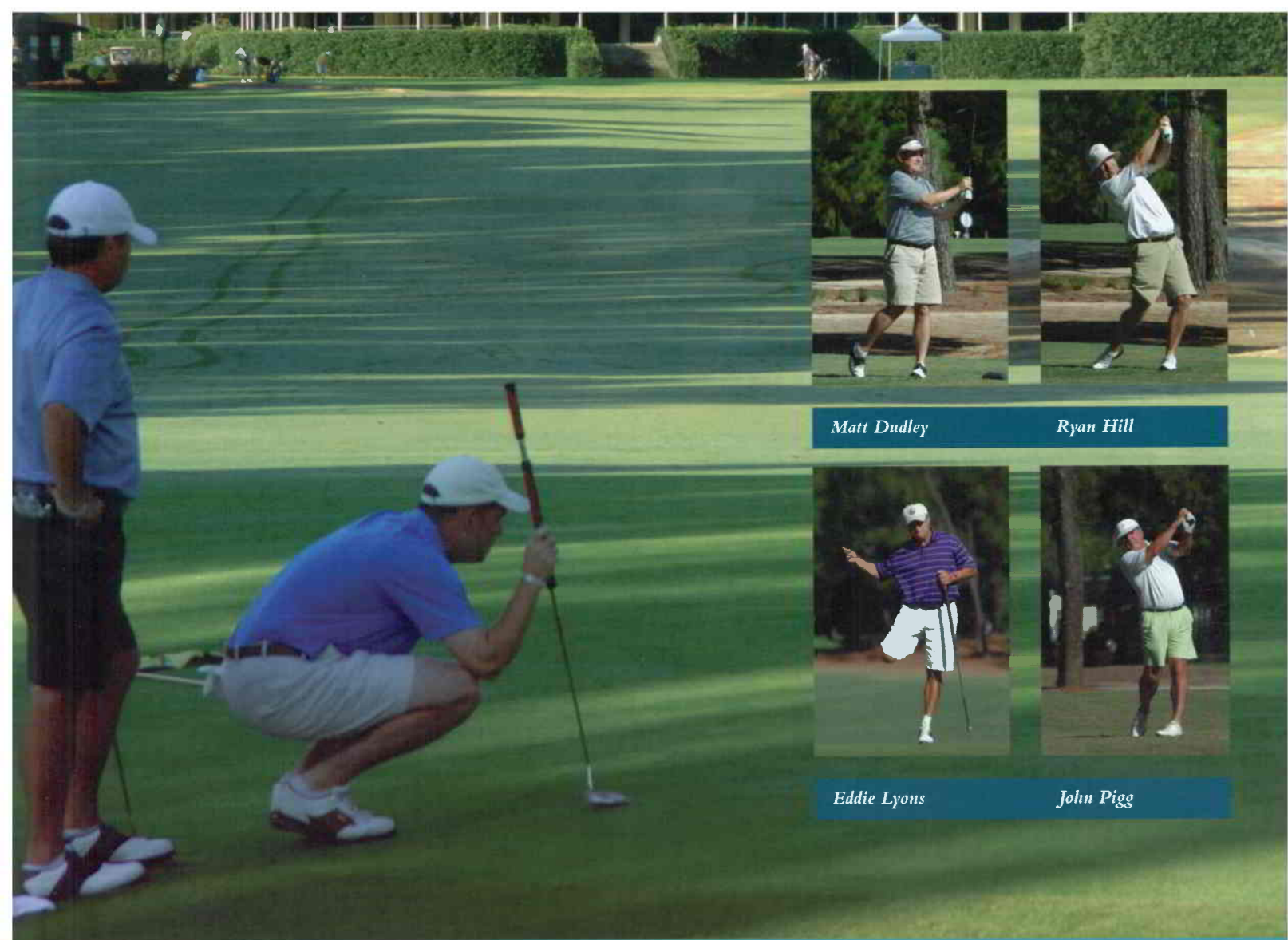
But Longview, Texas's Ryan Hill and Libertyville, Illinois's Matt Dudley won the first hole of a sudden-death playoff on legendary Pinehurst No. 2 and claimed the title in the 30th Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship in September.

Longtime friends Hill and Dudley, and the team of Brooks Andrisen, Greenwood Village, Colo., and Bobby Murray, Cary, N.C., each finished at 14-under 202 after rounds on Pinehurst's No. 2, 4 and 8 courses. But Hill was the only one of four players who managed a par on No. 2's par-4 first hole to start the playoff. That was good enough to secure a title, important to the champions for what it represents as much as a reward for three fine days of play in the Carolina Sandhills.

"Anything that benefits the kids is great," the attorney Hill said of winning a championship of the Trans, which offers a scholarship program benefiting aspiring turf students. "I don't know how important winning this was; we just wanted to come out here and play and have fun. We had friends in, a bunch of guys from Longview in and we just had a great time. I would say winning was just icing."



View the Championship photo gallery at trans-miss.com under the Championship tab



Matt Dudley

Ryan Hill



Eddie Lyons



John Pigg

Dudley, an attorney who attended law school with Hill, supported that testimony.

“It was a trip where you come together with friends, on a historic golf course – it’s a great tournament,” he said. “We really enjoyed playing with everyone we played with. Everyone here loves golf and understands the necessity to contribute through the Trans and funding people who are going to help build better golf courses, maintain better golf courses and design better golf courses. So I think winning is secondary to supporting it and playing with friends you know and that you get to meet over the years.”

19 holes on No. 2

Hill, 46, and Dudley, 43, took a one-shot lead into the third and final day after fine rounds on Pinehurst’s No. 8 and 4 courses the first two days of the Four-Ball left them at 10 under par. As luck

would have it, they were paired with their nearest competition as Andrisen and Murray, standing just a shot back at nine-under, joined them for a round on historic No. 2.

Hill and Dudley, who played in 2007 Trans Four-Ball at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, made just their second bogey of the event on the second hole and both teams birdied the par-5 fourth hole. But Andrisen and Murray, both of Peter Mellar Golf Apparel, bogeyed the difficult par-4 fifth while Hill was rolling in a 15-foot birdie putt for a two-shot lead.

Hill added a two-putt birdie at the par-5 eighth hole. But Andrisen sank a 10-footer at No. 7 and knocked his tee shot to four feet at the par-3 ninth for another birdie and a tie at 12 under par.

Hill made a 12-footer for birdie at the par-5 10th hole and Dudley got the team to 14 under at No.

11 with a 10-footer of his own. But Hill made what Andrisen called “the shot of the tournament” when the former’s green-side bunker shot from a buried lie nestled to tap-in range on the par-4 13th.

“The shot of the day, which I thought was somewhat lucky, on the par 4 where Matt lays three 20 yards over the green and I’m plugged in the bottom of the bunker having to hit up over a hill about 20 yards away,” Hill said. “I just swing as hard as I could and it came out and rolled to about a foot and half. I thought we were going to make double bogey there.”

Andrisen, playing in his third Trans Four-Ball, rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt at the par-4 11th hole and got he and former University of North Carolina golfer Murray to 14 under with a seven-footer at the 13th. But neither team could grab sole possession of the lead over the final five



holes on No. 2. They finished the round deadlocked after Andrisen and Murray carded 67 and Hill and Dudley turned in 68.

Despite making earlier birdie putts, Andrisen lamented a couple that got away late in the round.

"Bobby was giving me the good reads and I just couldn't get the ball in the hole," said Andrisen, 29 and playing out of Cherry Hills Country Club. "It was fun. We had a great time, but it was the same every day we had a little spell in the middle of the round where we got it going. But we couldn't start it and we couldn't finish it."

The four players, after waiting several anxious minutes to watch other scores come in, headed to the first tee for a sudden-death playoff. But Murray and Andrisen each missed the fairway on the par 4 while Hill and Dudley hit their tee shots in the short grass. Hill was the only one in the group to reach the putting surface

in two and his two-putt from about 40 feet netted the winning par.

"That pin is way back in a nook...you could say it was a birdie hole, but par won," Hill said. "That was a tough pin all the way back."

The fact neither player had seen course No. 8 didn't seem to faze the Hill/Dudley duo as they opened Four-Ball play on the facility's Centennial course. The duo had a bogey-free, seven-under 65 and led the championship division by a pair of shots after the first day.

"We both had a lot of looks at birdies and managed to make seven," said Hill of Pinecrest Country Club in Longview. "That got us off and going."

The team took on the challenge of course No. 4 the second day. The layout had been statistically the most difficult on day one, but Dudley and Hill had played their practice round on the course and were confident headed into the tournament round.

"(No. 4) we played well...we played with the Whites, they were fun and they played well so there was good karma in the group," said Dudley of Ivanhoe Club in Mundelein, Ill. "We ended up bogeying the last hole which was our first bogey of the tournament. We made two bogeys the whole 54-hole tournament which I think is just great. We enjoyed No. 4; it's a great layout, a great track. We ended up with a 69. I thought (No. 4) was the toughest."

Michael Brown of Atlanta and partner Peter Persons of Macon, Ga., finished three shots out of the playoff after rounds of 69 on No. 2, and 68s on both the No. 4 and 8 courses. Their 205 total was a shot better than fourth place Steve White of Jackson, Wyo., and brother Andy White of Signal Mountain, Tenn. (70 on No. 8, 66 on No. 4 and 70 on No. 2).

Three teams tied for fifth, another shot back at nine-under 207.

Pigg, Lyons are birdie machine in Senior Division triumph

John Pigg of Austin, Texas, and Eddie Lyons of Shreveport, La., four-time winners in the championship division of the Trans Four-Ball, claimed their first senior division crown at Pinehurst. Pigg and Lyons fired a 10-under 62 on

No. 4 the second day of the event and went on to post 24-under 192. The duo had a seven-under 65 on No. 8 to open the championship and added 65 on No. 2 the final day to win by seven shots.

The title gave Lyons a chance to pose for a trophy photograph in front of the Payne Stewart statue behind No. 2's 18th green – the one with Stewart lifting one leg and fist pumping after his winning par putt fell on that green at the 1999 Open. Lyons and Stewart competed against each other when the former attended LSU and the latter played at SMU. Later they became good friends.

"Payne Stewart and I used to play in four-balls together," said Lyons, 57. "To take the picture with Payne's statue was fantastic. I loved that because he was a good friend of mine. In 1999, we went to his home in Isleworth to play golf. It was a great friendship over the years... (I) sure do miss that guy."

Though scoring indicated No. 4 was the most difficult course for teams during championship week, Pigg and Lyons found it to their liking shooting the low round of the championship. A spectacular ten-under 62 on the second day of the event gave the duo a 36-hole strangle hold on the senior division.

"It was pretty odd... I made six birdies and John had an eagle and three birdies and they were almost all on different holes," said Lyons, a comprehensive wealth manager for Morgan Keegan who plays at Southern Trace Country Club in Shreveport. "John and I hit a lot of fairways and greens, but historically, we do not make a lot of putts. But when both players hit the green and the second player can putt free, we do real well. That particular day that is exactly what happened."

Lyons and Pigg, whose first Trans Four-Ball title came in 1983 at Brook Hollow and team resume includes victories at Phoenix Country Club in 1984, at Barton Creek in 1989, and at Horseshoe Bay in 2004, completed their stellar week with a seven-under 65 on No. 2 to finish at 24-under par.

Overpowering the course's par 5s in two from the senior tees, made it a comfortable final round for the long-hitting Lyons and Pigg, currently the Trans treasurer and a director since 1985.

"It was another one of those



Bobby Murray (left) plays from the “renovated rough” of Pinehurst #2. When the work is completed and grown-in the lie will be much different. Brooks Andrisen (right) agreed that the Donald Ross greens at Pinehurst #2 are difficult to hold.

McBee III of Dallas and Killen, Texas's John Goode (69-70-69) and Rodger Heldmar of Tulsa, Okla., and Roger Brown of Scottsdale, Ariz., (71-69-68) tied for fifth.

‘Uncovering of No. 2’

One hundred forty competitors and guests at Monday evening's players' dinner listened as Pinehurst President Don Padgett talked about renovation work being done to No. 2 in prepara-

tion for the club hosting the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open on consecutive weeks in 2014.

“It's never been done before and we're really happy that the USGA has the confidence in us to take that on back to back,” Padgett said.

“What makes that so significant for us is by hosting the Women's Open, Pinehurst will be the only facility in the USGA's history to have hosted all their major championships. Those championships consist of the Men's and Women's Amateur, the Senior Open and the Men's and Women's Opens. So we're excited about that.” Trans President Richard Coon of Amarillo, Texas, opened the evening with remarks thanking those involved in securing Pinehurst for the 2010 Trans Four-Ball Championship.

Coon, of Colorado Springs' Broadmoor and Amarillo Country Club, led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation. He also noted the 2011 site for the event, Desert Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale and the fact the Trans is returning to Bandon Dunes Golf Resort for the Four-Ball in October 2012.

“Our first annual Senior Championship is going to be conducted at Brook Hollow Golf Course in Dallas, May 23-27 (2011),” he added. “We're going to have three different divisions, so we'd love to have you all participate in that.”

Coon noted the Trans has given more than 1,000 scholarships since the program's inception in 1953 and that the Association will give more than \$63,000 in scholarships this

academic year.

Padgett welcomed 2010 Four-Ball participants to Pinehurst and suggested they walked in the footsteps of some historic golf figures as they strolled the lush fairways of Nos. 2, 4 and 1995 Centennial addition No. 8.

“When you come to Pinehurst it makes your stay just a little bit more meaningful if you kind of have an idea of where your footprints are going and the people that have been there before you,” he said. “In this room they had a couple of the 1951 Ryder Cup dinners, so I don't know if you're sitting in the exact seat of Hogan or Snead or Demaret, but you're close. We like to say when you play No. 2, when you walk down that first fairway you walk in the footprints of every modern-era player starting with (Harry) Vardon... right up to Tiger Woods today. They've all played here.”

Padgett noted that the Trans Four-Ball rotation, which included courses No. 2, 4 and 8 and their rich tradition of hosting key golf championships, would be “all that you can handle.”

Padgett offered a video and slide presentation which included comments from Crenshaw on the renovation work his design firm has taken on at No. 2 and from 2010 U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell.

“This is an evolutionary process that's been told over a season and half, let's say, and maybe that's a conservative estimate,” Crenshaw said. “There is no question in our minds that we are doing perimeter work. Looking back over the decades at different changes to the course from the 1940s onward, we're looking at the prospective and the shape of the holes is what we're after...that's our primary job, our primary function. Now what we're doing involves... adding dimension, color and shape to the holes themselves.

“As my partner Bill Coore has said many times, we had no pretense as to what was in Donald Ross's mind in certain areas. We have a great appreciation and have read as much as anybody to understand what his principles were.”

McDowell, an Irishman who won the U.S. Open this summer at another of the game's iconic venues -- Pebble Beach, praised the future site.

“I think Pinehurst is one of the premier places in the world to play golf and I look forward to 2014 and I am excited to see the golf course changing for the better I think... it is really one of the best places to play on the planet,” he said.

deals where we could get to all the par 5s in two,” said Pigg, who turned 60 days after the Trans Four-Ball.

“And Eddie made another good birdie on No. 5, the long par 4. We knew for somebody to catch us they were going to have to shoot really low. Once we got to five or six under it was just ‘get it to the house.’”

After three rounds at Pinehurst, and turning in a gaudy 24-under total, Pigg, who works for Wells Fargo Advisors and plays out of Spanish Oaks in Austin, said the team might have to re-evaluate which division it enters at the next Trans Four-Ball.

“I guess I accept senior golf but I'm not really ready to give it full throttle,” he said. “Eddie and I talked after we got through with (the tournament) maybe we ought to go back next year to the (championship) division for another year or two while we're still capable of playing good back there.”

Warren Huddleston and Lee Sandlin, each of Dallas, placed second in the senior division with their 199 total. Huddleston and Sandlin played the same rotation order as Pigg/Lyons and opened with a three-under 67 on No. 8. They added a fine eight-under 64 on the difficult No. 4 course and finished at No. 2 with a 68.

Another pair of Texans claimed third as Midland's Mac McGee and Austin's Larry Nunez turned in a 201 for the three days (69 on No. 2, 65 at No. 8 and 67 on No. 4). Anaheim, Calif.'s Marty Temple and Fullerton, Calif.'s Rick Doebler (69-68-70--207) placed fourth. Billy

Change in the air at No. 2

Pinehurst points to Open double in '14

It isn't often the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association calls on an eastern golf facility to host one of its championships. But if the Association is to call on one you'd have to look long and hard to find a better destination than legendary Pinehurst.

And the USGA is of the same opinion apparently as America's "keepers of the game" have tapped Pinehurst to host not only the U.S. Open Championship in 2014 but the U.S. Women's Open – on the very next week.

Back-to-back majors on the same golf course?

It's never been done. But the maintenance staff at Pinehurst is looking forward to the challenge of providing those firm and fast conditions the USGA is always talking about for the best players in the world in what's sure to be one crazy summer in '14.

"It's the first time that has happened, so we don't have a lot to base this on," admits John Jeffreys, assistant superintendent on No. 2 the last four years of his 10 at Pinehurst. "We're excited about the challenge. We just hope for good weather leading up to the event so our bermuda grass comes in well. It can be a cold March and April where we're really trying to push that. The greens will be in the best shape that they can be because that's usually our best time of the year. We want to make sure we have similar playing conditions for the women."

Return to Ross

And the championship layout players in 2014 will see will be very different from the one where Michael Campbell won a 2005 U.S. Open

and Payne Stewart claimed a title in 1999 with a lengthy par putt at No. 18 to edge Phil Mickelson.

Competitors in this year's Trans Four-Ball got to see the initial stages of changes being made to No. 2 to restore rough and transition areas to the look and feel they had when design legend Donald Ross put pen to paper in the early part of the last century. With the addition of materials, shaping and plantings No. 2 will have an entirely new (or make that old) feel to it.

"It's an exciting project because we are really returning the course to what it should be," Jeffreys says of work being led by the design team of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore.

"From a maintenance team member standpoint it is really exciting to see it go from day to day. When we started the project back in March we were used to the course looking a certain way, a certain way of maintenance...none of us were alive back in the '30s and '40s, we have pictures, luckily, that we can go back to and some aerial photographs. We can see some contours, but as you're out there on a daily basis you can start to see things come together."

Acres and acres of turf

Jeffreys, who worked at small club outside Raleigh during high school and college days, says separate maintenance staffs care for the eight golf courses at Pinehurst; five of the courses are located at the same site and run out of one clubhouse. The main club has a driving range, four practices greens and a learning facility – not to mention the pristine lawn bowling and croquet courts.

"The satellite facilities, (Nos. 6, 7 and 8) each have their own practice facilities, driving range and practice greens...they're about a mile in each direction," he adds. "We have a staff

of 16 full-timers on course 2 right now. That peaks in the summer when we have our interns in to about 24 full-time staff members."

Jeffreys says each course has about 70 to 80 acres of maintained turf. Tees and fairways on No. 2 are 419 bermuda, with some common in the roughs, Jeffreys says. G2 bentgrass is used on the greens currently, but a plan calls for a transition to A1/A4 bent prior to the upcoming Opens.



That's plenty of work for the staff and Jeffreys, who said he enjoyed preparing the venue for the Trans Four-Ball. The work the Association does in helping turf students isn't lost on the assistant superintendent.

"When you know you are helping students to become one of us you constantly see the reward of that," says Jeffreys, owner of an Agronomy degree from North Carolina State. "The main thing I stress to the students and interns coming in is you learn a lot on the golf course, the techniques, the mechanical, but in school is where you get the basis for all your agronomic knowledge, your environmental knowledge."

Jeffreys and wife Stacie, a state prison counselor in Rockingham, N.C., live in Pinehurst.