

KIAWAH TRADITIONS

seasons in the sun

FALL | WINTER 2023





In addition to offering five distinct championship-caliber golf courses that provide memorable rounds, we also strive to ensure you get the most enjoyment out of your game. The Tommy Cuthbert Golf Learning Center's mission is to instill sound fundamentals that allow you to approach every shot with confidence. Under the new leadership of Abby Welch, the resort builds on the strong legacy established by the recently retired director Ronnie Miller. In addition to day-to-day lessons, the center offers special fall and winter instructional weekends for women that I would encourage any female golfer to consider.

Five years ago, we embarked on a multiyear resort-wide expansion to continually provide guests the very best experience. When we opened the new Nest Market | Café last year, it signaled the beginning of a newly reimagined Night Heron Park, with greatly enhanced dining, nature and recreational facilities on the horizon. We have begun the next phase of that expansion, which we explain more fully in this issue of *Traditions*.

Time and time again, our guests tell us how much they love the natural beauty found here. Stewardship of our environment has remained one of our core values from the time the island was developed nearly fifty years ago. The resort has joined with other major community entities to forge a long-term plan for preserving and protecting our vital marsh habitat in perpetuity. To learn about this intricate ecosystem and its importance in the overall health of the island, I invite you to reserve one of our marsh excursions on your next visit.

Finally, if you've never experienced the magic of the holidays at the resort, please consider doing so this year. You'll find our décor, special programming and seasonal menus will help create lifelong memories.

Roger M. Warren, PGA
President, Kiawah Island Golf Resort

SWING DOCTORS

Prepare to refine your skills this fall by joining a Kiawah Women's Golf Workshop, designed to meet your game where it is. November 5 and 6 are dedicated to intermediate golfers with handicaps below 30. The following week's workshop, on November 10 and 11, is geared towards beginners. Both sessions are tailored to provide fast improvement by shaving off valuable strokes and instilling confidence.

The intermediate workshop will focus on developing every facet of the game, from driver to putter, and will incorporate mental exercises as well as employ video swing analysis to fine-tune your game. The beginner workshop is designed to introduce solid fundamentals to build your game over a lifetime.

Both intermediate and beginner bootcamp-style sessions will be led by the resort's Golf Learning Center PGA-certified instructors at Turtle Point Golf Course. Each day begins with range instruction followed by on-course play on the front nine to reinforce lessons learned. Students will then have the option to continue play on the back nine on their own.

[Learn more and begin planning your Golf Workshop.](#)



MEET THE GOLF LEARNING CENTER'S NEW DIRECTOR

The Tommy Cuthbert Golf Learning Center at Kiawah Island Golf Resort is thrilled to announce that Abby Welch has been named Director of Instruction. In her new role, Abby will oversee all operations at the center. Certified by both the PGA and LPGA, Abby has served as an instructor at the resort for more than 15 years. Throughout her career, Abby has accumulated an impressive list of accolades from authorities including *Golf Digest*, which recognized her for eight consecutive years as one of the nation's top 40 under 40 instructors, and has also very recently been featured in *Bloomberg Businessweek*. During her collegiate career, Abby captained the University of South Carolina's women's golf team. She assumes the reins from Ronnie Miller, who retired after 15 years of leading the learning center.

[Learn more about Abby and the Golf Learning Center.](#)



MEET THE PRO

Growing up in Atlanta, David Boyd played as a highly-ranked junior before becoming a walk-on at the University of Georgia. Six years after graduation, he began his career at Kiawah Island Golf Resort in the fall of 1988 and started by teaching the resort's Tiny Tots program and junior camps before quickly transitioning to adult instruction as well. When the head pro who hired him moved along, then Director of Tennis, Roy Barth, promoted David to Head Pro in 2000.

Reflecting on the past 25 years, David cites programming such as the Women's Tennis Weekends for the center's success. Those launched with the opening of The Sanctuary and have grown incredibly over the decades. "We had one

weekend that first year with a few locals," he recalls, "but now we host 300 players over 11 weekends during fall and winter."

David credits not only the center's quality of tennis programming for being perennially named the number one tennis resort worldwide, but also acknowledges all of the other highly acclaimed facilities and amenities. "From world-class golf to dining to accommodations - it all works together," he says.

Whether you're a lifelong player or someone just curious about the game, David warmly invites all guests to book a lesson. "I encourage anyone to take it up and give it a try," he adds. [Begin planning your next tennis getaway.](#)

A TIME FOR FEASTING

Gift yourself more time to relax with friends and family by leaving all the work to us this holiday season. Starting with Thanksgiving, the resort presents multiple dining options - from an elaborate buffet in Grand Oaks Ballroom (including a dedicated buffet for children) to the year's final Mingo Point Oyster Roast & BBQ. On Thanksgiving evening, the Forbes Five-Star Ocean Room will present a sumptuous feast accented by holiday favorites.

The holiday season will also feature special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dining across the resort, including what has become a perennial favorite - the traditional Italian Feast of the Seven Fishes at Tomasso at Turtle Point. In The Sanctuary, both The Ocean Room and Jasmine Porch will serve special menus, and The Lobby Bar will help you toast the holidays with special seasonal cocktails.

Raise a glass on New Year's Eve in The Lobby Bar, where after-dinner dancing will be accompanied by the Andrew Thielen Big Band, followed by a Champagne toast on the Grand Lawn. Once again, restaurants across the resort will feature special New Year's Eve and New Year's Day dining.

These annual culinary experiences prove popular. [Don't wait to begin planning your Kiawah Island Golf Resort holiday celebrations.](#)



'CUE UP THE AWARDS

Kiawah Island Golf Resort's authentic slow-and-low restaurant, Cherrywood BBQ & Ale House, located in the Osprey Point Clubhouse, continues to rack up a string of victories on the barbecue competition circuit. Cherrywood's Pulled Pork entry – the pinnacle of the art of genuine barbecue – won first place at The Festival of Discovery BBQ Competition for the third year running.



CONSERVATION AND CONNECTION

The marsh is the ocean's nursery. It incubates and nurtures countless populations of native species that play critical roles in Kiawah Island's sustainability. To help ensure the long-term health of this irreplaceable natural resource, Kiawah Island Golf Resort has joined in the adoption of a long-term [Comprehensive Marsh Management Plan](#) launched in 2022 by the Town of Kiawah Island. The four primary initiatives of the plan are to monitor, protect, engage, and restore the island's marshes.

Nearly half of Kiawah Island's 10,000 acres are marsh habitat. Every other area of the island - beach, woodland, even the resort's five golf courses - is dependent upon preserving healthy marshland. While you have no doubt marveled at the breathtaking marsh when driving along Kiawah Island Parkway or teeing off along the fifth and sixth holes of Cougar Point, have you taken the opportunity to really connect with it?

If not, be sure to plan an excursion with one of our naturalists - whether via motorboat, kayak, or SUP - on your next visit. A Pluff Mud Paddle is the ideal way to fully immerse yourself in the mysteries of the marsh - if you don't mind getting a bit muddy. If you prefer to keep things a bit cleaner (and dryer), Marsh Kayaking allows you to explore at eye level the intricate maze of interconnected creeks that branch off of the Kiawah River. If ornithology gets your pulse racing, our Kiawah River Birding Cruise is perfect for you.

You'll be surprised and amazed at the diversity of wildlife supported by this special ecosystem, and in the process, you'll gain a better understanding of why it is so critical that we act to preserve and protect it. [Start planning your marsh excursion.](#)

ISLAND TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW

When you celebrate the holiday season at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, you can leave all the heavy lifting to us as the entire island transforms into an enchanting wonderland (just plan to trade snow for sand).

We kick off the season the week of Thanksgiving and continue straight through to New Year's Day, making all of December one continuous party. Feast on an abundance of special dining options, and marvel at the breathtaking décor and special program offerings and events scheduled across the resort.

Thanksgiving isn't all about the turkey and stuffing. You'll find there is never a dull moment with a full schedule of events and activities including a Turkey Scavenger Hunt, Bonfire & S'mores, the annual

Turkey Trot and Sand Sculpting Contest, and an action-packed Thanksgiving Festival. The weekend also marks the grand tree-lighting ceremony with carolers, a parade, Santa's Lowcountry Grand Arrival, and the unveiling of the magnificent chocolate sculpture in The Sanctuary lobby.

Classic resort celebratory traditions will mingle with some new ones. Ongoing activities will mark the special season, including ornament-making workshops and craft activities (excellent for creating personalized gifts) at Turtles' Nest Art Studio at Night Heron Park.

[Be sure to regularly visit our website for full details](#), and call Reservations at 800.654.2924 to begin planning a memorable holiday getaway.



EXCITING NEWS FOR NIGHT HERON PARK

As part of a multiyear expansion, Kiawah Island Golf Resort is re-envisioning our Night Heron Park. These latest developments follow the 2022 opening of The Nest Market | Café. Anchored by a new Nature and Recreation Center that will provide guests an enhanced experience when learning about the island's flora and fauna, these newest facilities will also include an expanded art studio that will allow guests of all ages to explore their creative side.

The new facility will additionally provide exciting new indoor recreational amenities that are sure to become an instant hit with guests. While we can't unveil those surprises just yet, please be alert to future updates that will share everything the center will have to offer.

Elsewhere in Night Heron Park, the new expansion will include reimaged poolside dining and other improvements that will serve guests well into the future. Meanwhile, during the construction phase of the new gathering space, please be sure to visit our temporary Heron Park Nature Center, just steps away from the original location.

LACE UP THOSE RUNNING SHOES

Is running a marathon or half marathon an unchecked item on your bucket list? Make that dream a reality this year by signing up for the Kiawah Island Marathon. Scheduled for December 9, this year marks the event's 45th anniversary. The Kiawah Island Marathon and Half Marathon have been widely recognized as one of the best in the country. Sanctioned and certified by the USA Track & Field Organization, both events serve as Boston Marathon qualifiers. [Get ready to lace up your running shoes by registering today.](#)



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what's happening this fall & winter


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