Groups gather to discuss the accessibility of golf

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CLEMSON, S.C. — Major golf associations, along with rehabilitation organizations, accessibility groups and golf professionals, will converge on the Clemson University campus in April to hash out education strategies to improve the accessibility of golf to individuals with disabilities.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the United States Golf Association, the National Golf Course Owners Association, the National Golf Foundation, the Club Managers Association, the Professional Golfers Association and the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) will all be present at the National Forum on Accessible Golf VI being held here April 8-11.

The forum is being organized by Larry Allen of the National Project for Accessible Golf at Clemson, Gary Robb, director of the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University and Betsy Clark of the LPGA.

Although it has been five years since the last National Forum on Accessible Golf, Allen said that another gathering was necessary to sort out ongoing issues, especially ADA mandates.

"There is a lot of misinformation still out there. Organizations are still wondering what they should and can be doing," he said. "The purpose of the forum, however, is not to be adversarial. We want to be supportive and discuss not what you have to do, but what is good for the game and what is the right thing to do."