

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

# Like father, like son: Hayes staying busy at Boone GC

By ANDREW OVERBECK

BOONE, N.C. — For Boone Golf Club superintendent Michael Hayes, getting into the golf business was a family affair. Since Hayes, 35, grew up on a golf course with his father, Ernie, he jokes that he's been "in the business for 35 years."

"My father built the first nine holes at Linville Land Harbor and designed and built the second nine holes," said Hayes. "I grew up tagging along with him out on the course and worked for him as soon as I was old enough to get a work permit. I gleaned a lot of agronomic knowledge."

After getting his two-year turf degree from North Carolina State University, Hayes went back to Linville Land Harbor in 1988 to take his first superintendent position.

"My dad decided to retire and I took his position while he stayed on as a consultant," said Hayes. "I learned a lot. I was 20 years old and had to learn to deal with members and a board. My diplomacy skills were somewhat limited at that age."

Hayes stayed at Linville for two years and logged time at Linville Ridge CC and grew in and maintained Blue Ridge CC in Linville Falls before coming to Boone.

### STAYING BUSY IN BOONE

Like many of his North Carolina

colleagues, Hayes dealt with tough conditions this summer. From drought to anthracnose to grubs, Hayes has been keeping busy at the Ellis Maples-designed layout.

"We have been battling late-summer stress," said Hayes. "With the heat, the native push-up greens and the high traffic, we have had to use a more aggressive fungicide program. Now grubs are showing their face."

In addition to his normal maintenance duties, Hayes oversaw construction on the course's new practice range. The three-acre range is situated between the sixth and 18th holes and will have a maximum length of 200 yards.

"It will be a place to warm up and practice shots," he said. "Half our patrons ask us if we have a range, and this time next year we will be able to tell them we do."

A local contractor did all the heavy earth moving and Hayes' brother, who is an irrigation contractor, did all the irrigation work and has been doing the finish work and seed bed preparation. The facility was seeded last month with a mix of 75 percent perennial rye and 25 percent bluegrass.

A larger construction project is slated for next year. The North Carolina Department of Transporta-

tion will be moving a bridge onto the property, forcing the redesign of four holes.

"They need to relocate an aging bridge onto our property by the fourth hole," said Hayes. "Instead of shortening the par-4 into a par-3, we are going to rework the second through the fifth holes to preserve the design integrity. We are already short at 6,400 yards so we couldn't afford to lose another 100 yards."

Cary-based architect Rick Robins will handle the redesign work that is scheduled to commence as soon as permitting is approved.

"We are still negotiating with the DOT on a fair financial settlement so we shouldn't spend much on this project," Hayes added. "We will have to close holes while we do the work but we will try and direct play to temporary greens so we can stay open. The work won't impact the whole playing season."

While the redesign work hangs in the balance, Hayes is busy wrapping up this playing season.

"Last year we didn't close until Dec. 22," he said. "But we usually close from Thanksgiving to the end of March."

Hayes' primary concern during the winter is snow mold and desiccation, so he is preparing the course for those harsh conditions.

"The local joke is the only thing between us and Chicago is a barbed wire fence," said Hayes. "Our course takes a beating from those northwest winds."



Michael Hayes

## HAYES' TOOLS

### GREENS MOWERS:

2 Toro GM 3150 triplexes

### TEE MOWERS:

2 Toro GM 3100 triplexes

### FAIRWAY MOWERS:

2 Ransomes 250 4WD

### ROUGH MOWERS:

1 Lastec Articulator 721 on New Holland 3930

### IRRIGATION PUMP STATION:

Flowtronex, 950 gpm

### IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Toro Osmac/Site Pro

### GOLF CAR FLEET:

70 E-Z-GO electric

### FLAGSTICKS:

Par Aide, black British stripe

### COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES:



The sixth hole at Boone Golf Club

### RIDING BUNKER RAKE:

Cushman Groom Master

### TURF UTILITY VEHICLES:

5 E-Z-GO, 1 Toro Workman, 1 Cushman

### VERTI-CUT REELS:

Toro with Dynablades

### AERIFIERS:

2 John Deere Aercore 800, 1 John Deere Aercore 1500

### TOPDRESSERS:

1 Cushman, 1 Turfco 1530

### TOURNAMENT SPEED ROLLER:

Toro GM 3100 with True Surface Vibratory

### REEL GRINDER:

Neary 500

### BEDKNIFE GRINDER:

Neary 250

Toro NSN

### PRIMARY HERBICIDE:

Trimec Bent and Classic

### PRIMARY INSECTICIDE:

Merit

### PRIMARY FUNGICIDE:

Banner Maxx

### PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER:

Polygon, custom blend

### OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT:

1956 Ford Workmaster 601 tractor

### TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING:

5,000 sq. ft.

### ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF:

37,000

### NORMAL GREEN SPEED:

9'-9.5'

Photo: Andrew Overbeck

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