



COURSE HISTORY

2009 EVENT #1

Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club

Welcome To Pine Needles

"Golf has been wonderful to me! I couldn't have dreamed of a better life – or a better place to live it than right here."

- Peggy Kirk Bell.

The Pine Needles Golf Lodge and Club is more than a golf resort, it is a community...

The course is a Donald Ross design that opened in 1928. Since then, it has been voted a top course for women in America. It has hosted five USGA Championships, including three U.S. Women's Opens. Annika Sorenstam won here in 1996. Karrie Webb won in 2001 & Cristie Kerr won in 2007.

Although the accolades of Pine Needles are impressive, its history and owner is legendary.

In 1953 Peggy Kirk Bell married Warren "Bullet" Bell and they bought a share of Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club. They quickly returned the course to top playing condition and would eventually establish the club as one of the best female courses in the country

The Bells bought Pine Needles in partnership with Frank and Maisie Cosgrove and the Cosgroves' son in law Julius Boros, the '52 and '63 U.S. Open champion. At that time, the original clubhouse had been bought by the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh and turned into a hospital and sanitarium. In 1954, the lease on the adjacent army barracks, which had been used for guest accommodations ran out, leaving Pine Needles with only the course.

While the Cosgroves were busy managing Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club across Midland Road and Boros was off playing tournaments, the Bells, ignited by an exciting vision for the property, rolled up their sleeves and started building. The first project was the clubhouse, a chalet design which they built under the pines on a slight rise overlooking the practice facility and the 18th green (the 1st green before the old clubhouse was converted).

Subsequently expanded and modernized, the clubhouse fits ideally into Pine Needles rustic themes. A pinewood lodge, it incorporates world class dining, spacious lounge and bar, executive suites, and completely renovated locker rooms and pro shop.

The resort grew in size and stature over many years until now it is widely recognized as one of the country's outstanding small golf clubs and resorts.

A total of 75 comfortable, modern rooms in 12 chalet-style lodges are complemented by communications-equipped small meeting rooms, a swimming pool (the first resort pool ever built in Pinehurst), a 16,000-square-foot conference center, and first class, award-winning instructional programs/facilities geared to every level of player, all ages and both sexes. Golf for Women magazine has consistently rated it among the nation's most women-friendly resorts. Most recently, the resort added a four-hole practice course to complement one of the largest practice ranges in the country.

Since "Bullet" passed away in 1984, Peggy has continued to run the resort (and Mid Pines) with her children and their spouses. Preserving the family atmosphere at Pine Needles is its distinguishing trademark and a major reason why Pine Needles gets a high percentage of return visitors.

"It turned out I really liked teaching," said Bell, who has written several instruction books that have become bibles for women golfers. Over the years, she has taught a host of men as well as women. "I love to teach men, too," pointed out the acknowledged golfing Dean of Women.

Interestingly enough, it was a little suggestion from her father that would set the stage for Mrs. Bell's golf career and the future of the Pine Needles Lodge.

When Peggy Kirk Bell turned 17 years old, her dad suggested that she take up golf. Lessons gave way to playing in some small tournaments - and Peggy won. She graduated with a degree in education from Rollins College.

She began a teaching career that included the first women's golf school with legendary teacher Ellen Griffin. She and Bullet began national promotions of their Golfing Safaris, or Golfaris, bringing men and women to Pinehurst and their pioneering golfing schools. Peggy was named Teacher of the Year in 1961.

She is an author of two books. She has received numerous major awards, including the USGA's Bob Jones Award. She had been inducted into five Hall of Fames and was in 2007 named the recipient of the 2007 PGA First Lady of Golf Award.



"Golf has been wonderful to me! I couldn't have dreamed of a better life – or a better place to live it than right here." Says Peggy.

She has three children — Bonnie, Peggy Ann and Kirk.

So it is with great excitement that we invite all the players and families of the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour to this great event and historic community.

Enjoy its history, tradition, and the journey of this week's event.