

lifestyle: TEE TIME

From Touring to **TEACHING**

Doug Weaver instills passion for the game in players of all ages

Former PGA Tour professional Doug Weaver started playing golf when he was seven years old. Now, the director of golf instruction at Palmetto Dunes Resort and Palmetto Hall teaches seven-year-olds like Tommy Berrigan to play the game. Berrigan has taken classes with Weaver for about two or three months now, and says what he likes most about it is being able “to just get out there and have fun.”

Weaver says his junior classes emphasize fun, fresh air, friends and fair-ways. “I know the importance in friends and fun,” Weaver said.

Weaver offers junior clinics to children ages six to 18. The classes are held from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and alternate between Palmetto Hall and Palmetto Dunes. Cost is \$20 per child.

Weaver incorporates songs and fun games into his lessons. One such game is called “Squash the Bug,” and it teaches young golfers to use their hips and legs in their golf swings. “The Ice Cream Cone” teaches them how to hold a golf club properly.

Weaver says his teaching method is simple, effective and gets results. “I can teach in feelings, and as a result people can feel the golf swing and learn how to relax and enjoy it the way it was meant to be played,” he said.

Children are not the only ones taking golf lessons from Weaver. He offers a variety of classes for all age groups and skill levels.

Weaver teaches a ladies class, a short-game school, a “Back to Basics” class, a family golf school and introduction to golf classes. He even has an extreme makeover program for people who are totally frustrated or desperate to improve their game.

Weaver has been teaching golf on Hilton Head Island for the past 10 years. He played on the PGA tour for a year and played in the minor leagues for seven years. He moved to Hilton Head from West Virginia in 1977.

After graduating from Furman University where he played college golf, Weaver sold timeshares for Dunes Marketing Group. Then he played golf for a living for about eight years before going to work for Shipyard as a golf instructor in 1994. He has been teaching ever since. Weaver and his wife, Patricia, have two children: Kyle, 10, and Lauren, 13.

For more information, please call Doug Weaver at **785-1138**.

- Amy Coyne Bredeson



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